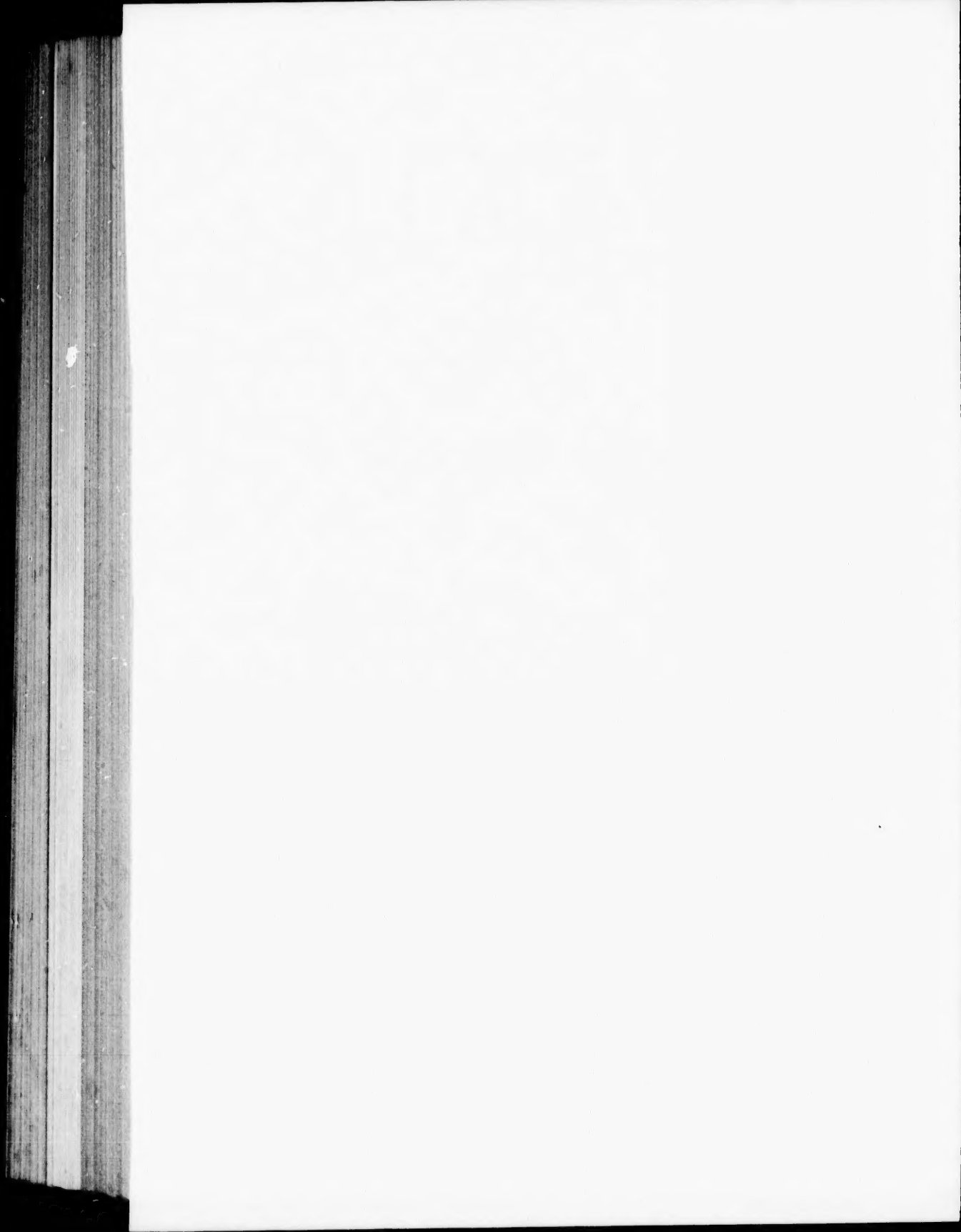




PROCEEDINGS
of the
28th Annual Communication

of the
M. W. GRAND LODGE
of
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

of
BRITISH COLUMBIA
HELD AT KAMLOOPS

June 22nd and 23rd, 1899

And of Special Communications

Held at
Nelson, 12th August, 1889, and
New Westminster, 31st March, 1899.

VANCOUVER, B.C.
NEWS-ADVERTISER, PRINTERS AND BOOKBINDERS
1899

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

M. W. GRAND LODGE

—OF—

ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

—OF—

BRITISH COLUMBIA

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Held in Nelson, B.C., on Friday, 12th August, 1898,
and in New Westminster, B. C., on Friday, 31st March, 1899,

—AND THE—

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Held in Kamloops, B. C., commencing on Thursday, the 23rd day of
June, 1899, A. L. 5899.

VANCOUVER, B. C.
News-Advertiser: Printing and Bookbinding.
1899.

Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

I, WALTER J. QUINLAN, Grand Secretary of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of British Columbia, Dominion of Canada, do hereby certify that the following pages contain a true and faithful transcript of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge at the Special Communication held in the City of Nelson, on August 12th, 1898, for the purpose of laying the Corner Stone of St. Saviour's Episcopal Church; and at the Special Communication held in the City of New Westminster, on March 31st, 1899, for the purpose of laying the Corner Stone of the new Masonic Temple, New Westminster; and at the 28th Annual Communication commenced in the City of Kamloops, on Thursday, June 22nd, 1899, and terminated on Friday, June 23rd, 1899, and of returns of Subordinate Lodges, together with other matters authorized to be published.



In testimony whereof, I have hereunto appended my official signature, and have affixed the Seal of the Grand Lodge of the Province of British Columbia, at the Office of the Grand Secretary, in the Masonic Temple, City of Victoria, this 28th day of June, in the year of light, five thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

W. J. Quinlan
Grand Secy

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

M. W. GRAND LODGE

—OF—

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

—OF THE—

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION.

By order of the M. W. Grand Master, a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of British Columbia, was held in the town of Nelson, on Friday, the 12th August, 5898, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of St. Saviour's Episcopal Church of that place.

PRESENT.

M. W. Bro. D. Wilson.....	Grand Master
R. W. Bro. John A. Turner (D.D.G.M.)....	Acting Dep. Grand Master
W. Bro. Joan Hamilton	Acting Sr. Grand Warden
W. Bro. Frank Fletcher	Acting Jr. Grand Warden
Bro. R. Frew	Acting Grand Chaplain
W. Bro. H. J. Raymer	Acting Grand Treasurer
V. W. Bro. W. J. Quinlan	Grand Secretary
W. Bro. A. A. E. Hodgins.....	Acting Superintendent of Works
W. Bro. Geo. L. Lennox.....	Acting Director of Ceremonies
W. Bro. Geo. Johnstone.....	Acting Sr. Grand Deacon
W. Bro. W. N. Dunn.....	Acting Grand Jr. Deacon
W. Bro. H. Byers.....	Acting Grand Marshal
W. Bro. W. F. Cragg.....	Acting Grand Sword Bearer
W. Bro. N. T. McLeod.....	Acting Grand Standard Bearer
W. Bro. Geo. McFarland.....	Acting Grand Organist

W. Bro. Jno. Bannerman.....Acting Grand Pursuivant
 W. Bro. E. E. Chipman
 W. Bro. R. F. Green.
 W. Bro. W. Piercy.
 W. Bro. Wm. Ragless.
 W. Bro. O. M. Rosendale.....Grand Tyler

As well as visitors from Kootenay Lodge No. 15; Nelson Lodge No. 23; Kaslo Lodge No. 25; Corinthian Lodge No. 27, and many other visitors from other Grand Jurisdictions, all duly registered.

The Grand Lodge was opened in "Ample Form" at 4 p. m. The M. W. Grand Master invited all M. M.'s in good standing to assist in the ceremony of the day, i. e., the laying of the corner stone of St. Saviour's Church, Nelson.

Procession was then formed and Grand Lodge proceeded to the site of the intended structure, where the Rev. H. S. Ackhurst, (rector) on behalf of himself, the Church Wardens and members, welcomed the Grand Lodge and presented the Grand Master with a beautiful trowel, suitably engraved, requesting him to proceed with the ceremony in keeping with the Ancient Regulations of the Craft.

Work being resumed, the M. W. Grand Master, in due and ancient form, proceeded, with the assistance of his officers, with the work for which the communication was held. The ceremony being ended, procession was reformed and returned to the Lodge room, where Grand Lodge was closed in "Ample Form" and so proclaimed.

W. J. Quindan
Grand Secy.

P.S.—The members of Grand Lodge and visitors were entertained later at a lawn fete, given by the ladies of the church.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION.

A Special Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of British Columbia, was held in the Masonic Hall, City of New Westminster, on the 31st day of March, 1899, at the hour of two o'clock p. m.

PRESENT.

M. W., David Wilson.....	Grand Master
R. W., Richard E. Walker	Deputy Grand Master
R. W., Peter Grant.....	Grand Senior Warden (acting)
R. W., H. H. Watson	Grand Junior Warden
V. W., J. Irvine	Grand Chaplain
V. W., Arch. B. Erskine	Grand Treasurer
R. W., Wm. A. DeWolf-Smith.....	Grand Secretary (acting.)
W., Charles Nelson	Grand Senior Deacon
W., Chas. B. Reeves.....	Grand Junior Deacon
W., C. H. Gatewood.....	Grand Superintendent of Works
W., H. N. Rich.....	Grand Director of Ceremonies
W., F. M. Cowperthwaite.....	Grand Marshal
W., P. McNaughton.....	Grand Sword Bearer (acting.)
W., T. J. Armstrong.....	Grand Standard Bearer (acting.)
W., S. N. Jarrett.....	Grand Organist (acting.)
W., L. A. Lewis.....	Grand Pursuivant
W., Frank Bowser.....	Grand Steward
R. W., Robt. B. Kelly.....	Grand Steward (acting.)
E. J. Hosker.....	Grand Tyler

The Grand Lodge was opened by the M. W. Grand Master in "Ample Form."

The Grand Master informed the Brethren that the Communication had been called for the purpose of laying, with Masonic honors and according to Masonic custom, the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple now in course of construction.

A procession was then formed, and the Grand Lodge and visiting Brethren marched to the site of the building where the corner stone was duly laid with appropriate Masonic ceremonies.

Upon the completion of the ceremony the procession reformed and returned to the Hall, where the Grand Lodge was closed in "Ample Form."

W. A. Dwyer

Acting Grand Secretary.



PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

M. W. GRAND LODGE

—OF—

Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons

—OF THE—

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of British Columbia was opened in the Masonic Temple, City of Kamloops, on Thursday, the 22nd day of June, 1899, A. L. 5899, at the hour of 10 o'clock a.m.

ROLL CALL.

Upon calling the roll the following were found present:

GRAND OFFICERS.

David Wilson.....	Most Worshipful Grand Master
R. Eden Walker.....	Right Worshipful Grand Master
Harry H. Watson.....	Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden
Rev. J. Irvine.....	Very Worshipful Grand Chaplain
Arch B. Erskine.....	Very Worshipful Grand Treasurer
Walter J. Quinlan.....	Very Worshipful Grand Secretary
Chas. Nelson.....	Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon
Chas. B. Reeves.....	Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon
Harry N. Rich.....	Worshipful Grand Director of Ceremonies
F. M. Cowperthwaite.....	Worshipful Grand Marshal
Wm. Newman.....	Worshipful Grand Organist
E. T. Jones.....	Grand Steward

R. F. Green.....	Grand Steward
M. Beattie.....	Grand Steward
E. Hosker.....	Grand Tyler

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

Geo. Cunningham.....	R. W. D. D. G. M., No. 2 District
W. O. Miller.....	" " " " 3 "
Jno. A. Turner.....	" " " " 6 "

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

M. W. Bro. Sibree Clarke.....	Past Grand Master
M. W. Bro. Robt. B. McMicking.....	Past Grand Master
R. W. Bro. Wm. Stewart.....	Past Junior Grand Warden
R. W. Bro. A. E. Lees.....	Past Junior Grand Warden

Grand Representatives from the following sister Grand Lodges :

Colorado,	Italy,	New York,
Connecticut,	Maryland,	Tennessee,
Indiana,	Missouri,	Vermont.
Ireland,	New Mexico,	

DELEGATES AND MEMBERS BY LODGES.

VICTORIA COLUMBIA LODGE, No. 1 :

D. Cartmel.....	Worshipful Master
H. L. Salmon.....	Senior Warden
D. Cartmel, W. J. Quinlan, H. L. Salmon.....	Past Masters

VANCOUVER QUADRA LODGE, No. 2:

D. Wilson.....	Worshipful Master
R. B. McMicking.....	Senior Warden
D. Wilson, R. B. McMicking, A. B. Erskine.....	Past Masters

ASHLAR LODGE, No. 3:

R. A. Bosanquet.....	Worshipful Master
Thos. Jones.....	Senior Warden
William Lewis.....	Junior Warden

CARIBOO LODGE, No. 4 :

W. A. De Wolf Smith.....	Junior Warden
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MT. HERMON LODGE, No. 7:

Wm. Hogg.....	Worshipful Master
W. J. Bowser.....	Senior Warden
H. A. Bell.....	Junior Warden
F. M. Cowperwaite, Chas. Nelson, A. E. Lees.....	Past Masters

UNION LODGE, No. 9:

W. E. Vanstone Worshipful Master
 R. E. Walker Senior Warden
 H. N. Rich Junior Warden
 I. Lehman, H. N. Rich, R. E. Walker, W. A. De Wolf Smith, Past
 Masters.

KAMLOOPS LODGE, No. 10:

Geo Middleton Worshipful Master
 Chas. S. Stevens Senior Warden
 J. M. Harper Junior Warden
 M. Beattie, S. Clarke, W. O. Miller, S. J. Tunstall, E. Stuart Wood,
 E. P. Flewelling, Past Masters.

MOUNTAIN LODGE, No. 11:

Wm. Newman Past Master

CASCADE LODGE, No. 12:

Fred Buscombe Worshipful Master
 H. H. Watson Senior Warden
 H. H. Watson, Jas. Irvine, C. E. Tisdall, Past Masters

HIRAM LODGE, No. 14:

Thos. Cairns Senior Warden
 F. L. Cock Junior Warden
 Fred'k L. Cock Past Master

KOOTENAY LODGE, No. 15:

H. J. Bourne Worshipful Master
 H. J. Bourne, W. F. Cragg Past Masters

PACIFIC LODGE, No. 16:

Chas. Nelson Worshipful Master
 C. E. Tisdall Senior Warden
 W. O. Miller Junior Warden

KING SOLOMON LODGE, No. 17:

W. E. Vanstone Worshipful Master
 Geo. Cunningham Senior Warden
 T. J. Armstrong Junior Warden
 T. J. Armstrong, Geo. Cunningham, Past Masters

DORIC LODGE, No. 18:

W. Lewis Worshipful Master
 Thos. Jones Junior Warden

IONIC LODGE, No. 19:

C. B. Reeves Worshipful Master
C. B. Reeves Past Master

MIRIAM LODGE, No. 20:

John Highman Senior Warden
John Highman Past Master

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 21:

J. Jeffries Worshipful Master
R. A. Bosanquet Senior Warden
J. Jeffries Junior Warden
Wm. Stewart Past Master

ACACIA LODGE, No. 22:

F. Bowser Worshipful Master
Theo. Mitchell Senior Warden
F. Bowser Junior Warden
Theo. Mitchell Past Master

NELSON LODGE, No. 23:

E. C. Arthur Worshipful Master
Jno. A. Turner Senior Warden
E. A. Crease Junior Warden
Frank Fletcher, Jno. Hamilton, W. A. Jowett, Geo. Johnston, Jno. A. Turner, Past Masters.

UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 24:

C. E. Sharp Worshipful Master
T. E. N. Woodgate Senior Warden
F. J. Bailey Junior Warden

KASLO LODGE, No. 25:

H. Byers Worshipful Master
R. F. Green Senior Warden
E. E. Chipman Junior Warden
H. Byers, E. E. Chipman, R. F. Green Past Masters

CORINTHIAN LODGE, No. 27:

H. J. Raymer Worshipful Master
Jno. S. Clute, Jr. Senior Warden
Jno. S. Clute, Jr. Junior Warden
A. S. Goodeve, Frank Bristow, H. J. Rayner Past Masters

NOTE—Proxies are entered in *Italic*.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed the following, "pro tempore," in lieu of absentees:

W. Bro. John Hamilton as.....	R. W. Senior Grand Warden
W. Bro. Hamilton Byers.....	W. Grand Superintendent of Works
W. Bro. W. A. Jowett.....	W. Grand Sword Bearer
W. Bro. John Highman	W. Grand Standard Bearer
W. Bro. Theo. Mitchell.....	W. Grand Pursuivant

ADMITTED TO GRAND LODGE.

The M. W. Grand Master tendered an invitation to Master Masons in good standing to seats in Grand Lodge, during the Communication:

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed W. Bros.: W. A. DeWolf-Smith, E. E. Chipman and E. C. Arthur ; also the following to replace absentees on the several Standing Committees:

W. Bro. Geo. Johnstone..... Finance
W. Bro. Robt. F. Green.....Petitions and Grievances
W. Bros. F. Bowser, R. A. Bosanquet and T. E. N. Woodgate,
.....on Chartered Lodges
W. Bros. Jno. A. Turner, A. E. Lees and E. Stuart-Wood, on Charity

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes of Special Communications held at Nelson, 12th August, 1898, and at New Westminster, 31st March, 1899, when it was

Resolved, That these minutes be adopted as read and that the Journal of Proceedings of the Twenty-seventh Annual Communication be taken as read, and adopted as printed.

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge:

Another stage in our history has been reached, and we are mercifully permitted to enter upon the labors of our Twenty-eighth Annual Communication. To all, I extend a cordial greeting.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to report that the past year has in general been one of marked prosperity and growth throughout this Jurisdiction. In addition to prosperity we have enjoyed as attendant blessings, the utmost peace and harmony. Let us trust that with worldly success (which is not the highest aim of our Order) there has been no pause or abatement in the earnest striving after that fuller life—that fruition of its sublime teachings—upon which Freemasonry is so insistent.

But in the midst of this prosperity, we should not forget to sympathize with those whose hearts are saddened by death and its accompanying afflictions. While few deaths of honoured brethren in other Jurisdictions have been reported to me, yet a glance at the various Proceedings shows that many Past Grand Officers have been stricken down. Among others, I notice the death on June 22nd, 1898, of an aged and honoured Freemason of Alabama, Palmer J. Pillans, well and favorably known to all readers of Reports on Foreign Correspondence. May his name and memory be cherished!

In our own Jurisdiction, the fell reaper has been busy. Many worthy members have received their last summons since we met one year ago. We extend to the families and relatives of our deceased brethren our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

Complete returns of our fraternal dead will be found in the report of the V. W. Grand Secretary.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

It is a matter for congratulation that nothing, so far as I am aware, has occurred during the year to mar the harmony of our relations with other Grand Jurisdictions. For your information, I shall refer to two matters of interest connected with this subject.

In June, 1897, the Grand Lodge of Peru gave its sanction to a decree issued by the then Grand Master, Bro. Christian Dam, ordering the Lodges to remove the Bible from their altars and substitute therefor a copy of the Constitution of the Order of Freemasonry, and also directing the word "Bible" to be struck out of all rituals and the words "Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Peru" put in its place.

As soon as this suicidal act became known abroad, it was followed by a general declaration of non-intercourse by other Grand Bodies. Our own executive does not seem to have been aware of the radical change in the Landmarks which Bro. Dam contemplated, for no action was taken by this Grand Lodge. Time, however, restored the right, for one year after (June, 1898), the newly elected Grand Master promptly repudiated the decree issued by his predecessor, and the Grand Lodge revoked its former decision, thus restoring the great lights in the Lodges.

On September 6th, through the Grand Secretary, I received a letter from the Grand Master of Peru, Bro. J. A. Ego-Aguirre, stating the facts just given, and asking for a re-establishment of fraternal relations and an interchange of representatives. Being satisfied that the Grand Lodge of Peru was again regular, I took it upon myself to assure Bro. Ego-Aguirre of the re-establishment (I should have

more correctly have said "continuance") of friendly intercourse between our Grand Bodies. The same Grand Representatives were continued.

The other matter of interest under this head relates to the so-called "Negro Masonry" of the United States. The adoption by the Grand Lodge of Washington at its last annual communication (1898) of the report of a special committee on "Negro Masonry" resulted in the declaration of non-intercourse by several American Grand Lodges. Other American Grand Lodges have not gone to such lengths but have communicated their determination to take some action unless an early reconsideration of what they regard as a practical recognition of Negro Masonry should be decided upon.

It may be well to remember that the Grand Bodies which have either severed fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington or threaten to do so, have in many instances within their own jurisdictions colored Lodges which have never been recognised. Now according to the doctrine of "Exclusive and Supreme Territorial Jurisdiction" (an exclusively "American" doctrine, not a Landmark) the adoption by the Washington Grand Lodge of the report mentioned above is regarded chiefly as an unwarranted invasion of Territorial Jurisdiction and, therefore, worthy of severe condemnation.

Some very harsh language has been used in describing the action of our neighboring Grand Lodge, but I am unable to see that any Landmark of the Order has been broken in the course pursued, although one may well doubt its propriety under all the circumstances.

Strange to say, over twenty years ago the Grand Lodge of Ohio only rejected recognition of these colored Lodges by a very narrow majority. Since then, the question has been little agitated until last year when it again came to the front, and is at present being discussed everywhere.

The Grand Lodge of Washington did not, however, consider the time had come when these colored Lodges could be affiliated to their own organization, and it leaves the question of mutual intercourse to be decided by its own Lodges, each for itself.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

August 12th—A special communication of Grand Lodge was held in the town of Nelson, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of St. Saviour's Episcopal Church. There were present, representatives of the Lodges at Rossland, Revelstoke, Kaslo, Nelson and Victoria. These together with other members of the Craft made up an attendance of about seventy-five. The occasion may be very properly described as a noteworthy one in the history of the Grand Lodge, for this was the first meeting of our Grand Body ever held in Kootenay.

The Vicar, Reverend H. S. Akehurst, appropriately welcomed the Grand Officers and requested the Grand Master to proceed with the ceremony. The corner-stone was laid in accordance with our ancient ceremonies, and an address was delivered by the acting

Grand Chaplain, Brother the Reverend Robert Frew. The beautiful silver trowel, presented to me by the Vicar and Wardens of St. Saviour's Church, will ever be treasured as a memento of an occasion on which it was my privilege as the head of the Craft in this Jurisdiction to assist in the erection of a sacred edifice.

March 31st.—A special communication of the Grand Lodge was held in the City of New Westminster, for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the Masonic Temple, about to be erected to replace the building destroyed by fire on September 11th. Grand Lodge was opened in the hall temporarily occupied by Union and King Solomon Lodges. All the officers, with a few exceptions, were present, and with other members and visitors, made up a goodly gathering of about one hundred and twenty-five craftsmen.

On arrival at the site, W. Brother J. G. Scott, President of the Westminster Masonic Temple Company, made the address of welcome and introduction, and presenting the Grand Master with a handsome silver trowel, requested him to lay the corner-stone.

Bro. Scott, in the course of his address, stated:

"As Freemasons we are endeavouring to perform our share of the work of restoring our City; we are now assembled to lay the corner-stone of our third Temple; we have passed the first and second degrees in building experience, and are now entering upon the third." It is almost needless to add that with the aid of the skilled brethren who attended me, the work was well and truly done.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

At the time of my installation, I fully expected that it would be possible for me, during my term of office, to visit nearly all the Lodges in the Jurisdiction, but the new duties that I was called upon to perform in connection with my daily work prevented me from leaving Victoria as frequently as in former years. Consequently, my record of visits made is a somewhat meagre one. To counterbalance this, I am able, however, to show a considerable mass of work of another character. To be very often or very long absent from my headquarters would hardly have enabled me personally to conduct with reasonable despatch a correspondence on Masonic business, the recorded portion of which nearly fills a 200-page letter book. Further, in order to relieve the V. W. Grand Secretary of the necessity of remaining in Victoria during July and part of August for the purpose of superintending the publication of our Proceedings for 1898, I undertook that duty, and by giving nearly two and a half hours daily to the work for about a month, had the satisfaction to secure the completion and distribution of the usual number of copies in about forty-five days from the close of the Grand Lodge.

Though I have been unable to visit many Lodges in person, I have full confidence that the very important work of supervision has been systematically and carefully carried on during the year by the several Grand Lodge Officers whose reports will be submitted to you.

My first official visit of the year was paid on 5th July to Mount Hermon Lodge. This was also the first opportunity I had had of entering the beautiful Masonic Temple of Vancouver, which had just been

tering the beautiful Masonic Temple of Vancouver, which had just been dedicated by my scholarly predecessor. Under W. Brother Cowperthwaite's mild but firm rule, Mount Hermon Lodge has made excellent progress. There was little or no fault to find with the manner in which the ritualistic work was done or the ordinary business transacted.

On July 6th, accompanied by W. Brothers Nelson, Cowperthwaite, and Thompson, I visited Acacia Lodge, Mount Pleasant. The second degree was conferred in an acceptable manner by W. Bro. Mitchell, who was somewhat hindered by the unavoidable absence of several officers. In January last, Acacia Lodge removed to the Masonic Temple, Vancouver, and has, I understand, profited much by the change.

On July 21st, accompanied by Past Grand Masters Baker, Dalby, McKeown and McMicking, R. W. Bro. A. C. Muir, and other members of Grand Lodge, I visited United Service Lodge, Esquimalt, and installed the officers for the ensuing year. The assistance given me on that occasion by M. W. Bros. McKeown and McMicking, R. W. Bro. Muir, and W. Bros. Salmon and Glover, is hereby gratefully acknowledged. After the ceremony, came one of those delightful banquets for which the Esquimalt brethren have earned such a reputation.

The Special Meeting of Grand Lodge, held in Nelson, on August 12th, gave me the opportunity of paying an official visit to the Subordinate Lodge located there. The V. W. Grand Secretary kindly accompanied me. At my request, W. Bro. Johnstone exemplified the first degree, and acquitted himself very creditably, but the work of the other officers was not so praiseworthy. This Lodge is in a prosperous and healthy condition, and I wish to commend the members of Grand Lodge resident in Nelson for the zeal shown in the interests of the Craft.

On August 15th, an official visit was paid to Kamloops Lodge, in company with Past Grand Master Clarke. There was, under the circumstances, a good attendance of members and visitors. An exemplification of work was given by W. Bro. Beattie and his officers, and I was very much pleased to notice that my suggestions and criticisms were so well received by all concerned. The meeting was followed by a pleasant banquet.

On Sunday afternoon, September 18th, by invitation, I visited United Service Lodge, and with several Grand Officers, past and present, accompanied members and visitors to Divine service, held in St. Paul's Church, Esquimalt. An eloquent and appropriate sermon on Charity was preached by Brother, the Rev. W. D. Barber, M. A., Chaplain of the Lodge. The collection, amounting to \$135.85, was very generously given as a donation towards a Masonic Relief Fund for the assistance of distressed brethren of New Westminster—a city which one week before, had been visited by the most disastrous fire that ever occurred in the Province.

On December 27th, I visited Vancouver-Quadra Lodge and installed the newly-elected officers. On this occasion, it was my good fortune to have the company of Past Grand Masters Milne, Dalby,

McKeown, and McMicking, and other members of Grand Lodge. Valuable assistance was rendered me in the interesting ceremonies of the evening by M. W. Bros. McKeown and McMicking, R. W. Bro. A. C. Muir and W. Bro. Glover. The retiring Master, W. Bro. Maxwell Muir, was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel in recognition of services rendered. After the close of the meeting, a short time was very pleasantly spent in the banqueting room.

Again, on January 5th, I was called upon to perform the ceremony of installation. For this purpose a visit was paid to Victoria-Columbia Lodge. Past Grand Masters Baker and McKeown, R. W. Bro. A. C. Muir, W. Bros. Green, Russell, Maxwell Muir and others kindly accompanied me, some of whom took part in the ceremony. It is gratifying to be able to report that the attendance of members and visitors was the largest I have ever seen on a similar occasion. A pleasant feature of the evening was the presentation of a handsomely wrought Past Master's jewel to the retiring Master, W. Bro. A. Stewart. After labor came refreshment in the form of a banquet, characterized by good cheer and good fellowship.

On April 1st, I was able to pay an official visit to King Solomon Lodge, New Westminster. The third degree was conferred on a candidate by W. Bro. Vanstone and his officers in a manner that called for commendation. Notwithstanding that the proceedings of the evening led me to make a few criticisms and suggestions, yet I could justly add some praise.

On May 17th, I paid a second official visit to Vancouver-Quadra Lodge. In addition to such general business as is usually transacted at a regular meeting, the third degree was conferred on a candidate by W. Bro. Stallard and his officers. I am justified in saying that the work was well done.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

During the year I recommended for appointment as representatives for sister Jurisdictions, the following Brethren:

August 24th.—W. Bro. Robert F. Green, of Kaslo, as representative of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

November 7th.—M. W. Bro. Sibree Clarke, of Kamloops, as representative of the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

April 3rd.—W. Bro. Horace J. Raymer, of Rossland, as representative of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

At the request of the different Jurisdictions, I appointed as our representatives the following brethren:

February 15th.—W. Bro. Gaylord J. Klock, of Eureka Springs, as our representative near the Grand Lodge of Arkansas.

February 17th.—W. Bro. Roland M. Hartley, of Minneapolis, as our representative near the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

April 3rd.—M. W. Bro. J. C. Cawood, of Knoxville, as our representative near the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

April 19th.—W. Bro. H. J. Clark, of Hamilton, as our representative near the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Under this head I may be permitted to remark that of late years doubt has been expressed by various Grand Bodies as to the value of the representative system, and that in some Jurisdictions, its abolition has in consequence been determined upon. That such a system is correct in principle and tends to promote good, no one can reasonably deny, but it is difficult to perceive just wherein its practical value lies when representatives near Grand Lodges continue year after year to demonstrate by their absence from Grand Lodge how lightly they value their commissions. In fact, there are on our list the names of many brethren who have not, for some years at least, been present at a single meeting of this Grand Lodge to prove that they have not entirely forgotten the names of the Jurisdictions they are commissioned to represent. In the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia an effort has been recently made to overcome a similar difficulty by the passage of a resolution declaring that those representatives who fail to attend Grand Lodge for three years shall forfeit their appointments.

In view of the above, I cannot but express the opinion that the list of Grand Representatives near this Grand Lodge needs to be revised.

BY-LAWS.

I have approved amendments to By-laws at the request of the following Lodges:

Acacia, No. 22; Nelson, No. 23; Union, No. 9; Kaslo, No. 25; Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2; Ionic, No. 19; St. John's No. 21.

DISCIPLINE AND APPEAL.

An appeal from the finding of Victoria-Columbia Lodge recharges preferred against Brother Andrew Christian Martin, a member of that body, will reach you through the Committee on Petitions and Grievances.

The case of Brother Adam Thompson recommended by Doric Lodge for expulsion, will also reach you through the same Committee.

NEW LODGES.

The duty of establishing new Lodges is an important and responsible one. Therefore the desire to form additional centres from which to extend the benefits of Freemasonry must be carefully held in check in order that none but vigorous lodges may be established. Holding these views, however, I found it advisable to grant all the dispensations for new lodges that were petitioned for.

The law governing such petitions having been fully complied with, I issued, after due inquiry and investigation, the following dispensations for new lodges:

On November 17th, to Bro. C. Scott Galloway and six others, to open a lodge at Greenwood, West Kootenay, to be known as

Greenwood Lodge; and naming therein Bro. C. Scott Galloway as Worshipful Master, Bro. A. S. Black as Senior Warden, and Bro. J. W. Macfarlane as Junior Warden.

On December 23rd, to Bro. I. M. Bernard and fourteen others, to open a lodge at Sandon, West Kootenay, to be known as Alta Lodge; naming therein Bro. I. M. Bernard as Worshipful Master, Bro. M. L. Grimmett as Senior Warden, and Bro. Alexander McMillan as Junior Warden.

On February 21st, to Bro. W. R. Ross and six others, to open a lodge at Fort Steele, East Kootenay, to be known as North Star Lodge; and naming therein Bro. W. R. Ross as Worshipful Master, Bro. C. A. Procunier as Senior Warden, and Bro. H. H. McVittie as Junior Warden.

The records and returns of these new lodges, together with their petitions for warrants, will be laid before you.

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED.

Among the powers of the Grand Master is that of "granting such dispensations as may be applied for in accordance with the law of the Grand Lodge." Now, I understand that among Masonic writers, the word "dispensation" is used in two sense. "In one sense, a dispensation is a permission to do an act which the law says shall not be done without permission. In the other it is a warrant importing to authorize the doing of an act which the law says shall not be done at all—in other words, a dispensing with the law."

It would thus appear that under our Constitution, Section 47 (part of which is quoted in the first sentence of the preceding paragraph), dispensations of the second class are unlawful in this Jurisdiction. That such dispensations are ever issued is undoubtedly due to the erroneous conception by a Grand Master that there is inherent in his office—independent of the Constitution—power to dispense with the law. Indeed, I fear that at the outset of my own career, a similar conception of my power led to the unintentional commission of an error, which was not, however, altogether without what might be regarded as good and sufficient reason for the action taken.

The following dispensations were granted:

On July 15th, to United Service Lodge, No. 24, to instal officers on July 20th, instead of on the day specified in By-laws.

On July 16th, to Doric Lodge, No. 18, to instal officers on July 19th, instead of on the day specified in By-laws.

On July 21st, to Mountain Lodge, No. 11, to wear regalia at Divine service on August 7th.

On September 16th, to United Service Lodge, No. 24, to wear regalia at Divine service on September 18th.

On September 20th, to King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, to hold a special meeting in Vancouver, the Masonic Temple and all pub-

lie halls in New Westminster having been destroyed by fire on September 11th.

On September 20th, to Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, to bury with Masonic honors our late brother J. D. Munsie, formerly of Silverton Lodge, No. 201, California, it having been satisfactorily proved to me that through no culpable neglect of his own, Bro. Munsie was, at the time of his death, an unaffiliated Mason.

On October 10th, to King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, to hold meetings elsewhere in New Westminster than in place named in By-laws, the Masonic Temple having been destroyed on September 11th.

On November 1st, to Union Lodge, No. 9, to hold meetings elsewhere in New Westminster than in place named in By-laws.

On December 13th, to Kaslo Lodge, No. 25, to have a joint installation of officers with Nelson Lodge, No. 23, at Nelson, on December 27th.

On December 13th, to Corinthian Lodge, No. 26, to have a joint installation of officers with Nelson Lodge, No. 23, at Nelson, on December 27th.

On December 23rd, to Acacia Lodge, No. 22, to instal officers on December 28th, instead of on date specified in By-laws.

On April 8th, to Kamloops Lodge, No. 10, to confer the third degree on Bro. A. W. Bushell in less time than that fixed by the Constitution, on the ground that this brother resides seventy miles from Kamloops, and would thus be required to undertake another expensive journey, if the statutory interval were not lessened. I may add that this dispensation was granted only on condition that the candidate be made proficient in the work of the second degree.

DISPENSATIONS REFUSED.

During the year I felt constrained to refuse four applications for dispensations, as follows: To confer the three degrees on a candidate in one night; to receive the application of a candidate who was under twenty-one years of age; to ballot on the applications of two candidates at an emergent meeting, and if elected to confer on them the three degrees in less than statutory time; to ballot on the application of a candidate at an emergent meeting, and if elected to confer on him the three degrees the same night.

To grant all or any of these requests would indeed be a dispensing with the law, which says that such things shall not be done at all, and in consequence, I declined to issue dispensations, pointing out in each case that, under our Constitution, it was not in my power to grant such requests.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions are submitted for your consideration:

After an Entered Apprentice has passed a satisfactory examination in the work of that degree, can a resolution be moved in a Fellow Crafts' Lodge that he be passed to the second degree, or must such a resolution be passed in a Lodge of Master Masons?

Answer.—After an Entered Apprentice has served the required term of probation and has passed a satisfactory examination in the work of that degree, he is entitled to be advanced, provided that no objection to his advancement is made by any member. (See Sections 197 and 224, Book of Constitution).

While the voice of the Lodge as to the sufficiency of the examination in the E. A. degree is taken in a Fellow Crafts' Lodge, yet members only (Sections 204 and 205, Constitution) have a right to decide the matter. Should the decision be favorable to the candidate, and should on inquiry by the presiding officer, no objection to his advancement be made by any member, the Lodge may proceed to confer the next degree on the candidate without further formality.

The offering of a resolution that a candidate be advanced to the next higher degree is unnecessary (Section 204, Constitution), for after his election to receive the three degrees, an applicant's progress (provided he has fulfilled every requirement) depends upon the absence of objection by any member. Objection may be made either in person or by communication.

2. Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, has suffered some annoyance on account of its refusal to admit to examination strange brethren who were unable to produce satisfactory (or any) vouchers of initiation and good standing. Under what conditions may the right of visit be exercised by strangers for whom no brother present can vouch?

Ans.—Section 226 of the Constitution says: "Any Master Mason in good standing may be permitted to visit a Lodge." Section 227: "If no brother present can vouch for the visitor, the Master shall appoint a committee of brethren skilled in the work to examine him." Section 229: "Before any visitor can be examined as to his knowledge of Masonry, he must state the name and location of the Lodge of which he is then or was lately a member, or in which he received the Masonic Degrees, which shall be reported to the Master, or the Lodge, before a committee of examination can be appointed."

To these must be added the pledge which the Master makes at his installation: "You promise that no visitor shall be received into your Lodge without due examination and producing proper vouchers of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge." (Ancient Charges).

The laws just quoted undoubtedly refer to all visitors from whatever Lodge or Jurisdiction.

In case no brother present can vouch for the visitor, the latter, before he can be duly examined, must report to the Master the name of the Lodge of which he is then, or was lately, a member, &c., and must produce proper vouchers, not only of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge (Ancient Charges), but of his good standing at the time of making such visit (Section 226). In other words, the visitor must produce and exhibit his Grand Lodge Certificate, or other proper vouchers of initiation, together with satisfactory documentary evidence of his good standing. Then, if after strict trial, the applicant can be vouched for by the committee of examination, he may be received into the Lodge, subject to the conditions of Section 229.

That strict trial without the production of satisfactory paper credentials is insufficient proof of the right to visit must be apparent. "for if a stranger be examined and can show that he is in possession of our secrets, it by no means follows either that, 1st, he may have obtained them unlawfully; or, 2nd, he may have acquired them under a Jurisdiction never recognized by our Grand Lodge, or with whom it is not at the time in fraternal relations; or 3rd, he may have been expelled by his Grand Lodge, or be under suspension. . . . The first is a hardly possible contingency. The second and third are more likely to occur, and must consequently be guarded against as more dangerous, for, 1st, There are spurious and unrecognized bodies in existence; 2nd, Grand Jurisdictions perfectly regular in themselves may not happen to be on terms of Masonic intercourse with us, therefore visitors hailing from them cannot be received into our Lodges; and 3rd, Though an expelled brother, or one under suspension, might still pass, yet the production of his paper vouchers will in almost every case prove a considerable obstacle in his way." The inevitable conclusion is that the secrets without the accrediting papers, or the papers without the secrets, fail to prove the right to visit a Lodge; both are clearly requisite.

GRAND LODGE RELIEF.

"There is one voice to which the Masonic heart never fails to respond. It is the cry for help emanating from the distressed, and oftentimes the need for such help is observed by the fraternity and swiftly acted upon before a request therefor has been made." Annual Oration, 1897, Cal.

On September 12th, the startling news was received of the calamitous fire which occurred in New Westminster that morning—a fire which rendered homeless a multitude of people and destroyed nearly \$2,500,000 worth of property. That the Masonic Fraternity should have stood quietly aloof and allowed others to perform all the work of relieving the distressed would not have been worthy of an order pledged to Universal Benevolence. Accordingly, on September 13th, I despatched circular letters to the Masters of all but two Lodges, urging them to bring to the notice of the Craft in their neighborhood the need of sending speedy relief to the destitute citizens of New Westminster. In some cases, action was taken by the Lodges, in others, the members had already joined with their fellow citizens to raise relief funds; and in all replies received, were contained expressions of the deepest sympathy for the sufferers.

Before any answers were received to my circulars, I was informed by the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Walker, of New Westminster, that although the assistance so bountifully afforded by the Cities of Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver, Rossland, Seattle, and other places, had relieved all immediate necessity, there were some five or six brethren who had lost not only their places of business, but their homes and all their contents, and who were therefore deserving of some aid beyond what the general relief fund could be expected to supply. After a brief correspondence, I decided to advance, on your behalf, a sum sufficient to be of service to these brethren in making a fresh start in life. And on September 17th, with M. W. Bro. E. Crow Baker, I remitted five hundred dollars to the Deputy Grand Master, and requested him, with the assistance of

the Masters of Union and King Solomon Lodges, to apportion this amount among those unfortunate brethren. To their credit, be it said that the latter would not accept any pecuniary assistance except as loans. Their acknowledgments of the amounts received, I have handed to the V. W. Grand Treasurer.

As the general distress had by this time been relieved, I considered it advisable to form into a Masonic Relief Fund such sums as might be received in answer to the circular letters sent out. As already stated, the Craft had for the most part added their subscriptions to the General Relief Fund, but the following Lodges forwarded subscriptions:

September 14th, Victoria-Columbia.....	\$ 50.00
September 19th, Miriam.....	50.00
September 25th, United Service.....	135.85
November 7th, Hiram.....	43.50

Of this sum (\$279.35) \$225.00 was expended during the latter part of September and beginning of November in assisting three other brethren. Two of them accepted relief only on condition that they should be allowed to repay it. Their acknowledgments I have also placed in the hands of the Grand Treasurer.

The balance of this fund unexpended, \$54.35 (\$10.85 of the subscription from United Service Lodge, and \$43.50, that from Hiram Lodge) was returned by me to these Lodges on June 5th, as no calls for relief were likely to be made.

In concluding my account, I may say that in this emergency, when the Westminster brethren were unable to help each other, being themselves sufferers, it appeared to me right, proper, and brotherly that relief should be given by Grand Lodge.

CIRCULAR LETTER APPROVED.

April 28th.—I gave permission to Union Lodge, No. 9, to send a circular letter to the various Lodges of the Jurisdiction asking for subscriptions in order to put a memorial window to the late Bishop Sillitoe in Trinity Church, New Westminster.

For many years and until the time of his death, in 1894, Past Grand Chaplain, the Right Reverend A. W. Sillitoe, D. D., had been a most devoted and valuable member of the Masonic Fraternity; and the proposal of Union Lodge to give the Craft an opportunity of placing a memorial window in the church where our distinguished and learned brother had so long ministered, deserves and should receive the hearty support of the Freemasons of this Province.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

I consider it incumbent upon me to refer to the work of W. Bro. W. A. De Wolf-Smith in connection with foreign correspondence. Few will credit the amount of work, patience, and judgment required to prepare a report such as was published in our last Annual. As soon as copies of Foreign Proceedings are received, the task—but I think it is a labor of love with our brother—must be begun, and kept up almost from day to day during the year. If there

is a fault that can be found with the report named, perhaps one might be justified in saying that Bro. Smith has done more than well. On the merit of his report there cannot be two opinions among those who read the interesting and useful Masonic information he has gathered with such good judgment from every available source, but without deprecating the value of his services, I think that a document of considerably less than one hundred and fifty pages would suffice for a numerically small Jurisdiction like ours.

LITERATURE, AND LACK OF INTEREST.

The admirable suggestion about the introduction of Masonic literature into the Lodge rooms, made by the R. W. Bro. Young in his report (printed in the Proceedings of 1898) has not, I trust, been lost sight of by those who, during the year, have been casting about for some means of keeping alive or arousing that interest on which the real success of a Lodge so much depends.

No one can doubt, as suggested by Bro. Young, the establishment, in connection with every Lodge, of a reading room, equipped with suitable Masonic and other literature, would be of incalculable benefit to its members, but such an undertaking would hardly be possible, except in the larger centres of population. There is, however, something that every Lodge can do in this direction—it can subscribe for a few first-class Masonic Journals and Magazines, and have some brother read aloud in Lodge the choice pieces of literature always found in them. Indeed, our own proceedings would furnish some interesting material for this purpose. These readings could be arranged for the meetings when there is "no work," or little business of any kind. I will go further and say that every member should subscribe for a Masonic paper of some kind, for "If we would keep up with the age, we must think, and in order to have subject for thought, we must read."

I am not alone in this appeal for reading Masons. Here is the cry from the head of another Jurisdiction: "We want more reading Masons. To have this, we must advance something to make them read—something to give them an appetite for research—and I know of no better means than by letting them see what is being done, what is being found out and discussed by the craft throughout the world."

Not only are there in our ranks many scholarly and enthusiastic writers constantly engaged in elucidating the Truths of Freemasonry, but here and there, are to be found devoted brethren given up to Masonic research. Of the latter, I may mention the most conspicuous example, viz.: Quatuors Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, London, England. This Lodge was warranted in 1884, in order chiefly to form a centre and bond of union for Masonic students. It is not what we understand as "A Working Lodge," for degrees are not conferred, and the membership is limited to forty. No members are admitted without a high literary, artistic, or scientific qualification. Its Correspondence Circle, however, is open to Masons in good standing throughout the universe, who are admitted on payment of half a guinea as the annual subscription. Members of this Circle (who I may say are to be found everywhere) receive copies of the Transactions, publications containing Masonic and other information of the most valuable character. I would recommend any brother in-

interested in Masonic research to become a member of the Correspondence Circle of "Quatuor Coronati Lodge."

RECORDS OF GRAND LODGE.

"As you like it" is generally a bad finger post. There is need of pressure to be applied from time to time in order that every duty may be carefully and promptly performed. One of the means of securing this attention to duty should be the knowledge that any neglect or error in work would be brought to light in the report of some one who has the right to speak with authority.

The records of a body like this ought to be complete, official, and of undoubted accuracy. From its organization, in 1871, until about 1884, and at rare intervals until 1889, minutes of all proceedings, both special and annual, were carefully, and I presume, accurately entered in a large book provided for the purpose. These, and not the printed Journals of Proceedings (which were also issued from year to year for the information of all concerned) must constitute the official minutes of the Grand Lodge, and form its permanent record of work done. At intervals, after 1884, the then Grand Secretary adopted a simple method of recording the minutes—he pasted the printed Journal of Proceedings into the Minute Book. Subsequently a still simpler plan was adopted—a copy of the printed Proceedings was tied into the Minute Book. Thus, for nearly fifteen years, this Grand Lodge has had no original record of its acts and deliberations in special or annual communications, other than the printed Proceedings. It is true that the manuscript of the Journal of Proceedings may be, and undoubtedly is, preserved in the Archives, but it cannot be described as a permanent record such as would be afforded by the careful entry of minutes in a suitable book.

Year after year, the printed Journal of Proceedings is certified to be "a true and faithful transcript" of our proceedings for the particular period it is intended to cover. Year after year the printed Journal of Proceedings is taken as if read, and adopted with few or any changes whatever, as already printed. But where is the book of original entry, the true Journal which is the source of this transcript or copy of an original?

In justice to our present worthy Grand Secretary, I must add that he has merely continued a practice that had come into vogue before he first assumed the duty of the office.

GRAND LODGE LIBRARY, ETC.

Following in the same strain of what is hoped may prove corrective criticism, I shall now call attention to the Grand Lodge Library.

The Grand Lodge owns about 600 or more bound volumes, mostly copies of foreign proceedings. About 400 of these are contained in two book-cases with glass doors; the others are placed on rough shelves or on tables. In addition, there are about 1,200 copies of paper covered proceedings, quite uncared for and quite inaccessible for purposes of reference. They range from '88 or '89 to '92, and perhaps later. I am unable to say whether or not we possess

a complete file of the Proceedings of the various jurisdictions with which we are in fraternal relations.

There used to be a sum expended every year for the binding of Proceedings, but I am unable to find that any outlay for this purpose has been made since 1895.

If it is your intention to care properly for the books in your possession, there is urgent need of several large book-cases. A good deal of work could very profitably be done in assorting and arranging the whole collection. It would also be desirable to add, if funds can be spared, a few standard Masonic works of reference. At present our collection is singularly bare of any books of this character.

Under Literature and Lack of Interest, I spoke of the desirability of the Subordinate Lodges subscribing for a few first-class Masonic Journals. Now, it appears to me that Grand Lodge should set the example in this matter. I believe that at one time several journals and magazines were received, the last recorded payment of subscription having been made in December, 1895. Since that time, they appear to have been discontinued—and perhaps prudently so, for some of them remain unopened.

The original intention of subscribing for Masonic papers, &c., was, no doubt, to keep the Grand Masters informed of what was passing in the Masonic world, but the unopened or apparently unused journals and magazines tell the usual story of the frustration of good intentions. Each succeeding Grand Master seems never to have received any of them. The present neglected accumulation will soon be fit only to be added to the rubbish of the Victoria Temple.

REFUNDS OF CHARITY.

Our Book of Constitution is, without undue praise, the best code this Jurisdiction has ever had. The volume is also well indexed, but strange to relate, the part which I now propose to discuss cannot be placed in the list of contents. It will be found on page 36, and is referred to as Section 133—"The Charity Fund."

Section 133 recites the source of the Charity Fund. It is declared to consist of such sums as may be derived from the distribution of the late Fund of Benevolence, and any donations which may from time to time be given to charity, and an annual proportion at the rate of 10 per cent. of all the revenues of the Grand Lodge. Sub-section (a) sets forth that this fund is under the control of the Charity Committee, who are required to dispose of it according to certain rules, six in number. The second rule states that the Secretaries of Lodges shall forward to the Grand Secretary with the Grand Lodge returns a list of relief granted to its members, as well as to transient brethren, during the year, which shall be referred to the Charity Committee, who shall order such sums as they may deem proper to be refunded to the Lodge. The fourth rule certainly contradicts the second, for the former declares that the Grand Treasurer shall, immediately after the Annual Session of Grand Lodge, pay to the Secretary of each Subordinate Lodge *all sums* expended by these Lodges in relief of transient brethren, and all such sums as

may be ordered by the Charity Committee. The practice of the Grand Treasurer, however, has been to pay only such sums as refunds, either on account of relief to transient brethren or members as have been recommended by the Charity Committee to Grand Lodge. Unfortunately, too, it has been the practice of the Charity Committee to be guided by the fourth, instead of the second rule, viz.: to recommend as refunds all sums expended in relief of transient brethren, instead of exercising their judgment (according to the instructions contained in the second rule) as to whether or not the financial condition of the particular Lodge or Lodges is such as to entitle it or them to such refunds. In fact, a Lodge should not expect or ask for a refund of charity, if it is financially able to give relief without looking for a return of it from Grand Lodge. The income from the Charity Fund should only be drawn upon when the aid granted becomes a burden upon the Lodge. It has also come to my knowledge that all our Lodges do not make returns of relief granted to transient brethren. Consequently refunds are annually made to those who have asked and who have been liberal (judiciously or injudiciously, I am not prepared to say) at the expense of the Grand Lodge Charity Fund.

Further, I have grave doubts about the propriety of regarding the tenth of the annual revenue of Grand Lodge as part of the Annual income of the Charity Fund. In like manner, we would be justified in regarding every donation to the Fund as income or revenue. Now, the sixth rule limits the annual amount of refunds to the annual income of the Charity Fund. The consequence of thus adding the tenth of our income to the interests on investments of original Fund, and calling the sum "the annual income or revenue" of Charity Fund, is the yearly absorption of a sum in refunds that would by this date have materially increased the original Fund. For years, therefore, the Charity Fund proper has not been swelled to the extent of a single dollar.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION.

In April last I received a communication from United Service Lodge, asking on behalf of Brother T. H. Tennent, an affiliated member of that Lodge, for the issuance to him of a Certificate of Registration similar to that which would be issued by the Grand Lodge of England or Scotland to a Brother affiliating from the Grand Jurisdiction of Ireland.

By way of explanation, it may be added that United Service Lodge has among its members many brethren whose duties may require them to move from Jurisdiction to Jurisdiction. The request for a Certificate of Registration is based upon the natural desire of a member to have authentic documents to show his Masonic history from the time of initiation. A demit does not do this, as it must be given up when the next Lodge is joined; hence the request for a Certificate of Registration, duly signed by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge under which he may happen to be an affiliated member.

At present there is no provision in our Constitution for the issuance of such Certificates, and I so informed United Service Lodge. But by the addition of the following words to Sub-section 13, Section 148, it would then be competent for the Grand Secretary to issue the

certificate asked for: "which shall include a Certificate of Registration, if applied for." The whole Sub-section would then read: "For every Master Mason joining from without the Jurisdiction, one dollar, which shall include a Certificate of Registration, if applied for."

I would, therefore, recommend that the above addition be made in the regular way to Sub-section 13, Section 148, Book of Constitution.

CONCLUSION.

As my term of office is rapidly drawing to a close, I beg to tender my sincere thanks to the members of Grand Lodge for the very great honor with which one year ago they distinguished me, who am but a comparatively young member of this Grand Body. To be elected as the Chief Officer of a Grand Jurisdiction is indeed something to be proud of, and I have endeavored so to bear myself as to uphold the dignity of the position and to contribute in some way to the welfare of our ancient and honorable fraternity.

To several of my predecessors in the Grand East, to the Grand Officers associated with me, and to all other brethren with whom I have been brought into contact during the past year, I wish to express my appreciation of the willing and valuable assistance rendered in every way in their power. To the Grand Secretary, I am additionally indebted for very acceptable service given in connection with the establishment of new Lodges in Kootenay.

And now, brethren, as we are about to enter upon the labors of this communication, may peace and harmony characterize all our proceedings, and may all our acts and deliberations be directed by a sincere desire to promote only the best interests of the Craft in this Jurisdiction, and above all, to maintain the genuine spirit of Freemasonry.

D. WILSON,

Grand Master.

Resolved, That the address of the Grand Master be referred to a Special Committee of three.

The R. W. Deputy Grand Master named M. W. Bro. R. B. McMicking, W. Bros. C. Ensor Sharp, and H. J. Raymer.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

New Westminster, June, 1899.

M. W. Grand Master and Brethren of the Grand Lodge:—

In accordance with ancient Masonic Custom it becomes my duty to present to you my address as D. G. M. for the past Masonic year, and I can assure you brethren that, while I have not paid as many visits as I had intended when you conferred this honor upon me,

all the visits I have paid have been a source of the greatest pleasure and gratification.

Early in my year of office the city where my home is situated (the City of New Westminster) was visited by the disastrous conflagration which you all doubtless recollect. Some here present have it indelibly stamped on their memories through seeing the devouring element consume their homes and places of business, but brethren of Grand Lodge it is, I believe, as indelibly stamped upon my memory, and upon the memory of many others, by that universal display of brotherly love and charity which immediately followed it. While the ruins of their homes were still smouldering our M. W. Grand Master was to the fore with immediate and substantial offers of assistance, and there are many brethren in New Westminster who were able to commence life's struggles afresh through the timely aid then vouchsafed to them. Aid not only in money and kind, but aid also in sympathy and kindly expressions of encouragement and brotherly love. A kind of aid, brethren, which often does more to help us tide over adversity and affliction than any monetary assistance, however necessary this latter may be.

I have mentioned the above facts early in my address, brethren, for two reasons: 1st—While not strictly an official act, it was the first duty I had to perform after being elected D. G. M. 2nd—Because I look upon it as the greatest opportunity that I have seen where our greatest tenets of charity and brotherly love were fully exemplified.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

Nov. 21. Accompanied by D. D. G. M. of No. 2 District, R. W. Bro. Geo. Cunningham, who, I may say, participated in all my official acts in No. 2 District, I visited Cascade Lodge, No. 12. We were also accompanied by a number of Westminster brethren. The W. Master, Bro. Gatewood, occupied the chair. I was somewhat late in arriving, but was received with a hearty Masonic welcome. I was pleased to see a large attendance, the Lodge room being well filled. Such a palatial Lodge room as the Vancouver brethren possess adds an additional pleasure to Lodge meetings. After the routine business was finished, the W. M. of Cascade Lodge and his officers vacated their chairs in favor of W. M. of Mount Hermon Lodge, Bro. Cowperthwaite and his officers, when the latter conferred the Master Mason degree in a most creditable manner. This interchange of chairs is an annual even in Cascade and Mount Hermon Lodges, and betokens a thorough feeling of good fellowship and harmony between the two Lodges.

Nov. 25. Again accompanied by R. W. Bro. Geo. Cunningham I visited Ionic Lodge, No. 19, Chilliwack, and received a cordial reception from the brethren, a good attendance being present. The W. M. conferred the Entered Apprentice and Master Mason degrees respectively on two candidates in a creditable manner. Ionic Lodge shows marked signs of improvement since my last visit as D. D. G. M., two years ago. I was glad to renew acquaintance with many old friends I had met on the occasion of my last visit.

Dec. 3rd. Visited Acacia Lodge, No. 22, the W. M. Bro. Bowser occupying the chair. This being the night of election of officers, no

degree work was attempted, although several application were received and balloted on. Acacia Lodge has at last decided to move down town and hold its meetings in the Temple on Granville Street, a step I think in the right direction.

Dec. 7. Visited my Mother Lodge, Union No. 9, and was heartily received by W. B. Scott and a good attendance of brethren. There being election of officers, no degree work was undertaken. The meeting was the first after the fire and was held in a very comfortable temporary lodge room in the Cunningham Block, which the Fraternity in New Westminster will occupy until the completion of their new Temple.

Dec. 13. Visited King Solomon Lodge No. 17, New Westminster, and received a hearty welcome from W. Bro. Boggs, W. M., and the brethren. The ballot was taken on several applications for initiation, and the annual election of officers was also effected. King Solomon is progressing well, both financially and otherwise.

March 31. Attended special communication of Grand Lodge, held at New Westminster for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new Masonic Temple. There was a large concourse of Masons and the W. M. Grand Master conducted the ceremonies in a most impressive manner. The weather was favorable and a general feeling of enthusiasm prevailed. Let us note that this will be a propitious beginning for the new building which the Masons of the Royal City are, with commendable pluck, erecting for the third time within twelve years.

May 9. Visited King Solomon Lodge No. 17 and received a hearty welcome from W. Bro. Vanstone, W. Master, and the brethren assembled. The Master Mason degree was conferred on a candidate in an excellent manner.

May 15. Visited Cascade Lodge No. 12, in company with R. W. Bro. Cunningham and a number of Westminster brethren. W. M. Bro. Buscombe occupied the chair and conferred the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degree on two candidates in a faultless manner. I was glad to meet M. W. Bros. Downie, Johnson and McLaren, and R. W. Bros. Tisdall and Watson, and W. Bro. Gatewood. I doubt if any Lodge in British Columbia has so many Past Grand Lodge and Lodge officers who take so active an interest in the Lodge as Cascade has. The habit of relapsing into an apathetic condition, after passing through the chairs, is too common and much to be regretted.

May 16. Visited Doric Lodge No. 18, Nanaimo, accompanied by R. W. Bro. Thompson, D. D. G. M. No. 5 District, and received a very hearty welcome from W. Bro. Meakin, W. Master. The annual election of officers was proceeded with and, no candidates being present, the W. M. exemplified the Entered Apprentice degree. The work in Doric Lodge did not seem to me to be up to the standard required, and a general lack of interest in Lodge matters appeared to prevail. After explaining the matter to the brethren present, I instructed them not to receive any new applications for membership or to confer any more degrees until they could satisfy the D. D. G. M. of their ability to do so properly. It would appear to me that if

such a thing could be effected, an amalgamation of the two lodges in Nanaimo would be in the best interests of Masonry.

May 17. Visited Ashlar Lodge No. 3, accompanied by R. W. Bro. G. Thompson, D. D. G. M. No. 5 District, and received a hearty welcome from W. M. Bro. Bosanquet and a large attendance of brethren, amongst whom I was pleased to see W. Bro. Stewart, of St. John's Lodge. The Entered Apprentice degree was conferred upon a candidate in an excellent and impressive manner. The Lodge room has lately been renovated and re-furnished and presents a very handsome and comfortable appearance. Ashlar Lodge is to be congratulated upon its excellent showing in all respects.

It is deeply to be regretted that Masonry in British Columbia is to suffer a loss in the departure of the W. M. of Ashlar Lodge, V. W. Bro. Bosanquet, for England, where I understand he is to reside in the future. Masonry throughout British Columbia, and particularly in Nanaimo, where he resided, owes to Bro. Bosanquet a debt of gratitude for the deep interest he has displayed, and for the precepts he has set and example he has practiced.

After the Lodge closed we repaired to the opera house where a very pleasant "At Home" was held. Refreshments were served and dancing etc. indulged in till a late hour.

May 31. My last official visit was to my own Lodge, Union No. 9, where with R. W. Bro. Cunningham I received a hearty welcome from W. B. Brine and a good attendance of brethren. One candidate was initiated into Masonry and two others received the Fellow Craft degree. The work was excellently done and the examination passed by the two brothers for advancement was of a most thorough and searching character.

I wish to thank the various officers and brethren for the uniform courtesy and kindness with which I was received everywhere. The trouble often gone to and the very evident desire to entertain and please visiting Grand Lodge officers is a matter worthy of note.

The general commercial prosperity of the past year has had its effect upon Masonry and everywhere I visited the Lodges were prosperous and increasing in strength. Let us pray that the Great Architect of the Universe will ever watch over and guide this great organisation so dear to the hearts of all here present.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

R. EDEN WALKER,
Deputy Grand Master.

Resolved, That the address of the Deputy Grand Master be referred to the Committee on the address of the Grand Master.

Grand Lodge called off.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

1.30 P.M.—GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

I have the honor to submit my annual report of the transactions of my office, in accordance with "Section 61, Constitution." I am pleased to say that the year just passed has been by far the most prosperous that we have ever experienced, and I trust that condition may long continue.

"Proceedings." The proceedings of last year were issued to the members of Grand Lodge, and those with whom we are in fraternal relations, on August 8th, an earlier date than ever heretofore. This can be largely attributed to the zeal and assistance of the Grand Master, who by the experience formerly gained on this committee and otherwise, was a great aid to the Committee on Printing. The thanks of Grand Lodge are due to M. W. Bro. Wilson in this connection.

COMMISSIONS.

The following were issued by order of M. W. Grand Master:

July.—To the R. W. District Deputy Grand Masters.

Feb. 21.—To W. Bro. Gaylord J. Klock, as Grand Representative near the M. W. Grand Lodge of Arkansas.

Feb. 21.—To W. Bro. Roland H. Hartley, as Grand Representative near the M. W. Grand Lodge of Minnesota, vice Bro. A. J. Boyce, left Jurisdiction.

April 5.—To M. W. Bro. J. C. Cawood, Knoxville, as Grand Representative near the M. W. Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

April 24.—To W. Bro. H. I. Clarke, Hamilton, as Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

Commissions were received from:—

Oct. 5.—The M. W. Grand Lodge of Connecticut; to W. Bro. Robt. F. Green, Kaslo, as Grand Representative.

Dec. 15.—The M. W. Grand Lodge of Vermont; to M. W. Bro. Sibree Clarke, Kamloops, as Grand Representative (re-appointed.)

May 20.—The M. W. Grand Lodge of Tennessee; to W. Bro. H. J. Raymer, Rossland, as Grand Representative.

DISPENSATIONS.

Dispensations were issued as follows:

June 23.—To Nelson Lodge, No. 23, to wear regalia at public Divine Service.

July 14.—To United Service, No. 24, to install officers on other date than By-laws specify.

July 16.—To Doric Lodge, No. 18, to install officers on other date than By-laws specify.

July 18.—To Mountain Lodge, No. 11, to wear regalia at public Divine service.

Sept. 26.—To King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, to hold Lodge meeting in Masonic Hall, Vancouver.

Sept. 26.—To Union Lodge, No. 9, for similar purpose.

Oct. 10.—To King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, to hold Lodge meeting in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, New Westminster.

Oct. 20.—To Union Lodge, No. 9, for similar purpose.

Nov. 15.—To C. S. Galloway, A. S. Black, J. H. McFarland, and associate brethren, to form a new Lodge at the town of Greenwood, to be known as "Greenwood" Lodge.

Dec. 19.—To Acacia Lodge, No. 22, to hold installation of officers at other date than By-laws provide.

Dec. 20.—To Kaslo Lodge, No. 25, to hold installation of officers at the City of Nelson; a joint installation.

Dec. 20.—To Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, for similar purpose.

Dec. 26.—To Isaac M. Bernard, M. L. Grimmer, Alex. Maclean and associate brethren, to form a new Lodge at the town of Sandon, to be known as "Alta" Lodge.

Feb. 24.—To Wm. R. Ross, P.M.; C. A. Procnier, H. H. McVittie and associate brethren, to form a new Lodge at the town of Fort Steele, to be known as "North Star" Lodge.

FRATERNAL DEAD.

The following are officially reported:

Lodge No. 1.....Daniel Sheehan

Lodge No. 3.....David Davis, David Thomas,
R. F. Byers.

Lodge No. 4....Lewis J. Lewis, Chas. J. Paulson,
Peter Egan.

Lodge No. 7.....Benjamin Springer, P. M.

Lodge No. 10.....John Bruce.

Lodge No. 11.....A. G. M. Spragg, P. M.; Wm. G.
Neilson.

Lodge No. 12...Henry A. Brocklesby, James Little.

Lodge No. 15.....F. A. Ford.
 Lodge No. 17.....H. C. Teschnor.
 Lodge No. 21.....D. W. Eberts, Jas. A. McKenzie,
 Robert Fisher.
 Lodge No. 23.....Wm. G. Spencer, Frank Brendt.
 Lodge No. 26.....Alfred Walker.

STATISTICS.

SUSPENDED.

Lodge No. 1—John Jones, W. H. Kettle, J. T. Martin, Samuel
 Salmond, Albert Wills, James Noakes, Jos. L. Levy.

Lodge No. 2—George Bishop.

Lodge No. 7—S. F. Calkins, J. L. Franklyn, J. C. Douglass,
 Wm. Middler, H. C. Mason, F. J. Painton, C. H. Weetzel, W. S.
 Smith, F. M. Rattenbury.

Lodge No. 9—Jno. Wiggins.

Lodge No. 20—A. Poole, C. A. S. Short.

Lodge No. 23—Gilbert Stanley.

Lodge No. 25—Hugh Ross.

Lodge No. 26—Matthew Mitchell.

RESTORED.

Lodge No. 1—Jno Nicholles.

Lodge No. 2—A. M. McKenzie.

Lodge No. 12—Walter L. Leonard.

Lodge No. 18—Chas. H. Stickels.

RECOMMENDED FOR EXPULSION.

Lodge No. 1—A. C. Martin.

Lodge No. 18—Adam Thompson.

PAST MASTERS' DIPLOMAS.

Diploma No.	NAME.	Year of Office.	LODGE.	No.	DATE OF ISSUE.
19	H. C. M. Ridley	1892	Kamloops.....	10	25 Jan., 1899
20	C. H. Temple.....	1896	Kootenay.....	15	30 May, 1899
21	H. J. Bourne.	1895	Kootenay.....	15	30 May, 1899
22	*William Bald.....	1897-8	St. John's.....	21	31 May, 1899

*Not paid for.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

As predicted in my report of last year, there are three Lodges
 now working under dispensation who will petition the Grand Lodge

at this communication for charters. These are located respectively at Greenwood, Sandon and Fort Steele. The "record of work" and returns are now before the Committee on Petitions and Grievances I trust from the very satisfactory progress they have all made, their several petitions will be granted. The locations are all growing towns in the Kootenays, and I consider the prospects of all to be excellent.

SUBORDINATE LODGES.

"Progress and prosperity" has been the watchword of the lodges with a few exceptions, during the past year. The most marked gains have been Nelson No. 23, 22; Corinthian No. 27, 21; Cascade No. 12, 19; while the losses are in every case very small.

Chief among the reverses encountered was the great loss to the New Westminster Lodges of their beautiful temple. However, these Lodges have displayed such zeal and enterprise that they will soon resume their old-time standing.

Since this report has been written I regret to have to add that on June 10th a similar loss has befallen Corinthian Lodge, Rossland. I deeply sympathize with the brethren of this Lodge in the destruction of their comfortable and well appointed lodge-room, but feel assured from the energy hitherto shown, their united efforts will result in the erection of a more beautiful and permanent structure.

RETURNS.

The returns from Lodges were all received by the 1st inst., and in the main showed careful preparation and accuracy. There were some, however, otherwise; which leads me to think that many of the Secretaries never read either the Constitution or the Proceedings of Grand Lodge. I also experience great difficulty in getting some of the secretaries to apply for M. M. diplomas as soon as the candidate is raised, thereby enabling me to make the list of M.M. diplomas issued and the candidates "raised" correspond. Many also do not seem to realise that the fiscal year of Grand Lodge—as far as they are concerned—is from the 1st March to the 28th February, and that only the work done during this time should appear in the "return" and nothing else.

May I at this time briefly detail some of the duties devolving on secretaries to the Executive of Grand Lodge and request them to keep as a reference, and hand over to their successor:

(1.) Send notices of all Lodge meetings to the M. W. Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and the D. D. G. M. of the District

(2.) In sending any names in correspondence, use full names—not initials.

(3.) Send for M.M. diplomas at once after candidate is "raised."

(4.) When making up "returns," arrange names alphabetically, entering surname first; enter name only once, either as an "officer," "past master" or "member," (which of course does not refer to the "new list" where all names dealt with during the year must be recorded) and send in said return; not later than 1st May.

(5.) Keep a record of all disbursements of charity, with full particulars, and forward on special blank, with "return."

(6.) Fyle all dispensations received, noting amount due for each as per "scale of fees."

In accordance with resolution of last annual session, I prepared and had printed a special "form" for the record of charity disbursements by the lodges. These were sent to the secretaries, and the response has been more than satisfactory. The details of disbursements can this year be laid before the Committee on Charity in a way never reached heretofore; to my mind this legislation is the best Grand Lodge has enacted in many years.

I must, before closing, express my deep appreciation of the zealous assistance rendered by the secretaries of the subordinate Lodges. I fully realize the many difficulties under which they labor, and while I may criticise, it is done for the purpose of obtaining, if possible, better results in the future.

It would be ingratitude personified if I did not at this time express my warmest thanks to the M. W. Grand Master for the many acts of kindness and able assistance so often rendered during the past year. From the fact that many of the records and forms were kept in the strong-room at Victoria, I fear I often trespassed on his good nature; I can only say that it is seldom one's good fortune to obtain aid, given so willingly, and in so able a manner.

I cannot close this report without expressing my appreciation of the honor bestowed by Nelson Lodge No. 23, in creating me an honorary member, a favor unexpected and perhaps undeserved.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

W. J. Quindan
Grand Secy.

W. J. QUINLAN, Grand Secretary,
IN ACCOUNT WITH THE GRAND LODGE A. F. & A. M., B. C.

Dr.

Cr.

1899.

June To Dues, Chartered Lodges..... \$2,198 00
 " " Dues and Dispensation, Lodges U.D..... 188 00
 " " P.M. Diplomas..... 8 00

\$2,394 00

1899.

By Commissions on Cheques..... \$ 4 77
 " Grand Treasurer's Receipts..... 2,388 73
 " Cash handed..... 50

\$2,394 00

ABSTRACT OF RETURNS FROM LODGES.

LODGES.	No.	Funds and Property.	RELIEF GRANTED.			
			To Members	To Widows and Orphans.	To Transients.	Miscellaneous.
Victoria-Columbia.....	1	\$ 7,760 75		\$ 41 00	\$131 90	\$ 4 50
Vancouver-Quadra.....	2	4,471 50	\$ 40 40			
Ashlar.....	3	12,500 00	158 00		9 00	7 00
Cariboo.....	4	673 00				
Mt. Hermon.....	7	2,483 00		85 00	119 60	20 00
Union.....	9	3,700 00			5 75	
Kamloops.....	10	3,300 00				
Mountain.....	11	483 75			7 90	
Cascade.....	12	4,298 00	257 50	246 50	50 90	
Spallumcheen.....	13	1,181 70				
Hiram.....	14	576 50				
Kootenay.....	15	336 50				
Pacific.....	16	1,983 00				
King Solomon.....	17	725 00				
Doric.....	18	297 00				
Ionic.....	19	630 00				
Miriam.....	20	381 20				
St. John's.....	21	1,839 90				
Acacia.....	22	485 00	150 00		32 00	
Nelson.....	23	803 00			25 00	
United Service.....	24	2,729 10				
Kaslo.....	25	1,778 20				
Cumberland.....	26	398 00		125 00		
Corinthian.....	27	2,000 00				
Greenwood.....	U.D	550 00			44 75	
Alta.....	U.D	462 70				
North Star.....	U.D	371 30				
Totals.....	...	\$57,208 10	\$605 90	\$421 50	\$426 80	\$31 50

\$2,394 00

\$2,394 00

RECAPITULATION.

Lodges U. D.....	3
Chartered Lodges.....	24
Initiated in all Lodges.....	199
Passed	162
Raised	139
Affiliated	94
Demitted	57
Restored	4
Suspended N. P. D.....	24
Died	20
Rejected	39
Diplomas M. M.....	122
Diplomas, P. M.....	4
Dispensations issued	14
Members of Chartered Lodges	1,530
Total on roll of all Lodges.....	1,639
Total F. C. in all Lodges.....	42
Total E. As. in all Lodges.....	60
Total funds and property of Lodges.....	\$57,208.10
Total relief to members.....	605.90
Total relief to widows and orphans.....	\$491.50
Total relief to transients.....	\$273.80
Miscellaneous	\$31.50

SUMMARY OF SOURCES OF REVENUE.

Lodge.	No.	Location.	Members at \$1.	Initiations at \$1.	Passings at \$1.	Raisings at \$1.	Affiliations at \$1.	M. M. Diplomas at \$2.	Dispensions.	Total Dues
Victoria-Columbia.....	1	Victoria.....	\$136 00	\$ 6 00	\$ 5 00	\$ 5 00	\$ 2 00	\$18 00	.....	\$172 00
Vancouver-Quadra.....	2	".....	112 00	10 00	7 00	7 00	4 00	14 00	.....	154 00
Ashlar.....	3	Nanaimo.....	84 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	1 00	2 00	.....	90 00
Carlboo.....	4	Barkerville.....	24 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24 00
Mt. Herman.....	7	Vancouver.....	120 00	20 00	17 00	16 00	6 00	12 00	.....	191 00
Union.....	9	New Westminster.....	89 00	12 00	11 00	8 00	3 00	18 00	5 00	146 00
Kamloops.....	10	Kamloops.....	54 00	3 00	1 00	3 00	3 00	8 00	.....	72 00
Mountain.....	11	Donald.....	47 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	4 00	5 00	63 00
Cascade.....	12	Vancouver.....	185 00	12 00	13 00	12 00	13 00	24 00	.....	204 00
Spallumcheen.....	13	Armstrong.....	23 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	4 00	.....	34 00
Hiram.....	14	Courtney.....	34 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35 00
Kootenay.....	15	Revelstoke.....	31 00	5 00	4 00	4 00	4 00	8 00	.....	56 00
Pacific.....	16	Mission.....	36 00	3 00	2 00	.....	.....	4 00	.....	45 00
King Solomon.....	17	New Westminster.....	48 00	14 00	9 00	8 00	1 00	10 00	5 00	95 00
Doric.....	18	Nanaimo.....	40 00	2 00	2 00	2 00	1 00	4 00	2 50	53 50
Ionic.....	19	Chilliwack.....	31 00	3 00	4 00	5 00	.....	10 00	.....	53 00
Miriam.....	20	Vernon.....	22 00	6 00	5 00	5 00	.....	.....	.....	38 00
St. John's.....	21	Wellington.....	42 00	4 00	4 00	5 00	1 00	4 00	.....	60 00
Acacia.....	22	Vancouver.....	48 00	8 00	4 00	4 00	5 00	8 00	2 50	79 50
Nelson.....	23	Nelson.....	66 00	13 00	9 00	6 00	15 00	14 00	.....	123 00
United Service.....	24	Esquimalt.....	51 00	7 00	7 00	7 00	3 00	14 00	.....	89 00
Kaslo.....	25	Kaslo.....	45 00	2 00	4 00	5 00	2 00	10 00	2 50	70 50
Cumberland.....	26	Union.....	25 00	5 00	4 00	3 00	1 00	6 00	.....	44 00
Corinthian.....	27	Russland.....	76 00	18 00	16 00	15 00	7 00	46 00	2 50	180 50
Greenwood.....	U.D.	Greenwood.....	.....	19 00	12 00	3 00	2 00	.....	30 00	66 00
Alta.....	U.D.	Fort Steele.....	.....	14 00	10 00	8 00	5 00	.....	30 00	67 00
North Star.....	U.D.	Fort Steele.....	.....	7 00	7 00	3 00	8 00	.....	30 00	55 00
P.M. Diplomas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 00
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$2428 00

3
 24
 199
 162
 139
 94
 57
 4
 24
 20
 39
 122
 4
 14
 1,530
 1,639
 42
 7,208.10
 605.90
 \$491.50
 \$78.80
 \$31.50

Tabular Statement of the Work of the Subordinate Lodges of British Columbia A.F. & A.M. from 1st March, 1898, to 28th February, 1899.

NAME OF LODGE.	Number.	Post Office.	Number on Roll, March 1898.	Initiated.	Passed.	Raised.	Affiliated.	Demitted.	Restored.	Suspended for N.P.D.	Died.	Rejected.	E. Apprentices.	Fellow Crafts.	M. Masons on Roll.	Total on Roll 1st March, 1899.	Gain.	Loss.	SECRETARY.
Victoria-Columbia.	1	Victoria.....	142	6	5	5	2	2	1	7	1	3	2	3	136	141	14	1	B. S. Oddy, P.M.
Vancouver-Quadrant.	2	Nanaimo.....	96	10	7	7	4	1	1	1	3	1	10	...	112	122	14	...	F. Berry.
Ashlar.	3	Barkerville.....	82	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	10	...	84	84	2	...	C. C. McKenzie, P.M.
Cariboo.	4	Vancouver.....	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	24	...	...	H. McDermott, P.M.
Mt. Hermon.	7	New Westminster.....	118	20	17	16	6	6	...	9	1	2	5	3	120	128	10	...	Jas. England.
Kamloops.	9	Donald.....	81	12	11	8	3	2	...	1	...	...	3	3	80	95	14	...	W. A. DeWolf Smith, P.M.
Mountain.	10	Kamloops.....	32	2	2	2	1	2	...	1	...	...	3	3	54	56	4	...	E. Stewart Wood, P.M.
Cascade.	11	Vancouver.....	173	12	13	12	14	6	1	...	2	2	2	1	47	47	...	...	J. C. Pitts, P.M.
Spallumcheen.	12	Armstrong.....	21	2	2	2	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	6	18	19	...	...	R. S. Sykes.
Hiram.	13	Courtnay.....	33	1	4	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	23	23	...	...	R. S. McConnell.
Kootenay.	14	Revelstoke.....	24	5	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3	33	34	...	...	Schuler Flint.
Pacific.	15	Mission.....	40	3	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	3	3	36	42	...	...	T. J. L. Downes, P.M.
King Solomon.	16	New Westminster.....	45	14	9	8	1	1	...	1	1	2	9	2	48	59	14	...	D. W. Gichrist.
Doric.	17	Nanaimo.....	38	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	...	1	1	3	40	40	...	...	W. E. Norris.
Ionic.	18	Chilliwack.....	31	3	4	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	34	3	...	Justinean Pelly.
Miriam.	19	Vernon.....	26	6	4	5	7	...	...	2	3	1	1	...	22	23	...	...	M. J. O'Brien.
St John's.	20	Wellington.....	42	4	5	5	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	42	...	...	F. W. Hawes.
Acacia.	21	Mt. Pleasant.....	44	8	4	4	4	5	...	...	...	1	4	3	48	52	8	...	Geo. L. Lennox, P.M.
Nelson.	22	Nelson.....	52	13	9	9	15	3	...	1	2	2	5	...	66	74	22	...	Thos. H. Tennant.
United Service.	23	Esquimalt.....	56	7	7	7	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	51	52	...	...	E. C. Chipman, P.M.
Kaslo.	24	Kaslo.....	48	2	4	5	3	6	...	1	...	2	1	...	45	46	...	...	L. P. Eckstein.
Cumberland.	25	Union.....	24	5	4	4	7	...	...	...	1	3	3	1	25	27	3	...	Wm. M. Wood.
Corinthian.	26	Roseland.....	61	18	16	15	7	3	...	...	...	5	7	9	76	82	21	...	J. C. Haas.
Greenwood.	27	Greenwood.....	19	19	12	3	5	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	14	30	...	...	W. H. Lilly.
Alto.	...	Sendon.....	14	10	7	3	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	30	36	...	...	A. W. Bleasdel.
North Star.	...	Fort Steele.....	7	7	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	18	22	...	...	...
				199	162	139	94	57	4	24	20	39	67	42	1,530	1,639			

1 Returns to 10th June, 1898.

*Recommended for expulsion.

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the M. W. the Grand Lodge of British Columbia.

Brethren:—I have the honor of again submitting for your consideration the transactions of the year just closed; in so doing let me bring to your attention the matter of the Treasurer's bond. This may seem a wise precaution on the part of Grand Lodge and doubtless was intended as such, but the office of Treasurer in the past and to-day are entirely different. Formerly the Treasurer invested the funds and in many instances in his own name. To-day the investments are made by the Board of Trustees, leaving only the current accounts to be handled by the Treasurer. It must be apparent to the brethren that the current accounts first pass through the Grand Secretary's office, and if security for Grand Lodge funds is what is sought for, then why not include Grand Secretary and Trustees.

CURRENT ACCOUNT.

To balance as per statement 1898.....	\$1,720.30
To receipts from all sources.....	2,394.00
	\$4,114.30
Disbursements as per vouchers, 48 to 71—including 10 per cent Charity Fund	\$1,972.72
Balance	\$2,141.58

CHARITY FUND ACCOUNT.

To balance as per statement 1898.....	\$6,220.23
To receipts from all sources	489.90
	\$6,710.13
Disbursements as per vouchers 50 to 52.....	499.60
Disbursements, taxes on mortgages.....	10.25
Disbursements, McHugh's Mortgage to Trustees.....	700.00
	\$1,209.85
Balance	\$5,500.28

All of which is fraternally submitted,

A. B. ERSKINE,
Grand Treasurer.

Dr. *In Account with the Charity Fund of the M. W. Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of B. C.* Cr.

1886.	To balance from 1885		\$6,220 23
June 28	Cash, one year's interest on \$450 at 9%, B. H. John		
Aug. 8	Cash, one year's interest on \$500 at 6 1/2%	\$ 40 50	
Sept. 8	Balance due from 1887 Pacific, \$16	32 50	
	One year's interest on \$2,100 at 6%, Columbia		
	It. Arch., No. 124	125 00	
Oct. 13	Six months interest on \$600 at 8 1/2%	25 50	
1889.	Three		
Jan. 30	"	12 75	
May 1	"	12 75	
June 21	10% revenue from current account	23 40	
			\$6,710 13

SUMMARY OF BALANCE.

Aug. 10	Pacific Lodge No. 16.....	\$ 500 00 at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
June 25	Columbia Royal Arch, No. 120....	2,100 00 at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
June 25	Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2.....	680 00 at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
	M. Sturdy, mortgage.....	600 00 at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
June 3	B. H. John, note.....	450 00 at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
	Cash to Trustees.....	670 40
	Cash with Treasurer.....	229 40
	Cash, Bank of Halifax.....	260 48
		\$5,500 23

July 4	By Order No. 50, Victoria-Columbia, No. 1...	\$ 08 00
"	" " Vancouver-Quadra, " 2...	45 00
"	" " Ashlar " 3...	9 50
"	" " Union " 9...	20 00
"	" " Cascade " 12...	169 00
"	" " Kootenay " 15...	11 00
"	" " Nelson " 23...	82 00
"	" " Kaslo " 25...	25 00
"	" " 51, Grand Treasurer.....	50 00
"	" " 52, Mrs. Pugh.....	2 50
"	Mortgage Tax, New Westminster... ..	7 75
"	McHugh's Note to Trustees.....	700 00
	Balance.....	\$1,209 85
		5,500 28
		\$6,710 13

A. B. ERSKINE, Grand Treasurer.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

Victoria, B. C., 19th June, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia :—

We, your Board of Trustees, appointed by the members of Grand Lodge in session duly convened, as mentioned in last year's report at page 40 of the "Proceedings 1898," beg to report as follows:

- 1st. That the Promissory Note of Columbia R. A. Chapter, falling due 29th June of the current year, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum and payable annually upon the sum of \$2100.00, still remains in our possession, and the repayment of same has been further secured in keeping with instructions of Grand Lodge by the receipts from said Chapter of the Share Certificates in the "Masonic Building Association"..... \$2,100.00
- 2nd. That the Promissory Note of Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, for \$680.00, same date, interest and conditions as R. A. Chapter Note, still remains in our possession.... 680.00
- 3rd. That the Promissory Note of B. H. John and Catherine Greenwood, past due 5th June, 1896, bearing interest at 9 per cent., interest payable quarterly, for \$450.00, is also in our possession with other securities of Grand Lodge 450.00
- 4th. That the First Mortgage on real estate by W. McHugh, due 1st September 1898, with interest at 8 1-2 per cent. per annum, \$700.00 has been paid off, the money paid into account current at Bank B. N. A., and since invested upon first mortgage on real estate at 7 per cent. and forming part of the \$1300.00 Mortgage Security of P. J. Davies, as more fully reported to the Grand Treasurer and as set out in Short Account Current hereto appended..... 700.00
- 5th. That the First Mortgage on real estate by M. L. Sturdy due 10th April, 1898, bearing interest at 8 1-2 per cent. per annum upon the sum of \$600.00, has been extended for a further period of twelve months, upon the advice of Grand Treasurer, to the effect that interest monies are paid punctually(as also fire premiums), and interest reduced to 8 per cent. per annum..... 600.00
- 6th. That the First Mortgage on real estate by "Pacific Lodge" No. 16, for the sum of \$500.00, at 6 1-2 per cent. per annum, as extended by Grand Lodge resolution for three years from 9th April, 1896, still remains in possession of Trustees..... 500.00

7th. That the amount of money found to be in the Bank of B. N. A. at Victoria, upon deposit receipts, together with the accumulated interest thereon at 3 per cent. (vide short account current of Trustees attached) has been withdrawn, placed to account current in same Bank, and \$600.00 of it re-invested at 7 per cent. and forms the balance of the \$1300.00 Mortgage hereinbefore mentioned 600.00

8th. That, with the exception of the interest upon "Deposit Receipts" and the amount paid by W. McHugh—both amounts appearing in "Short Account Current"—no demand has been made for payment of interest monies, nor have any such monies been received by your Trustees, it being in our opinion no part of our duties to collect monies, but merely to account for their custody and investment.....

9th. That the funds of Grand Lodge, as far as the Trustees are charged with their custody and investment, are, therefore, as follows:

1st. Promissory Note R. A. Chapter at 6 per cent.....	2,100.00
2nd. Promissory Note, Vancouver-Quadra, 6 per cent.....	680.00
3rd. Promissory Note, John and Greenwood, at 9 per cent..	450.00
4th. First Mortgage, M. L. Sturdy, at 8 per cent.....	600.00
5th. First Mortgage, Pacific Lodge, at 6 1-2 per cent.....	500.00
6th. First Mortgage, Phil. J. Davies, at 7 per cent.....	1,300.00
7th. Bank B. N. A., cash on call.....	217.85

Total of Grand Lodge funds.....\$5,847.85

All of which is fraternally submitted,

EDGAR CROW BAKER, Chairman.	} Trustees.
WM. DOWNIE,	
R. B. McMICKING.	



[illegible]

**VICTORIA, B. C.,
19th June, 1899,**

EDGAR CROW BAKER,
CHAIRMAN BOARD TRUSTEES,

Resolved, That the reports of the Grand Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustees be referred to the Committee on Finance.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,
DISTRICT NO. 1.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

I have the honor to submit the following report of District No. 1 which I hope will meet with your approval.

July 20th, 1898, I attended with the W. Grand Master and officers of the Grand Lodge the installation of the officers of United Service Lodge No. 24. The ceremony was performed by the W. G. M. in a very able and impressive manner. We were afterwards entertained by the brethren of No. 24 and spent a very pleasant evening.

On 4th August, 1898, I visited Victoria Columbia Lodge No. 1, when W. Bro. Stewart conferred the First Degree very creditably.

On August 18th, 1898, I visited Vancouver-Quadra Lodge No. W. Bro. Maxwell Muir conferred the First degree and examined two brothers in their proficiency on the Third Degree. I cannot give the W. M. and his officers too much praise for the manner in which the work was carried out.

On September 18th, 1898, I accompanied the M. W. Grand Master and the officers and brethren of United Service Lodge No. 24, to Divine service in the Church at Esquimalt, when Bro. Barber, the Chaplain, gave a very instructive sermon on Masonry which was listened to with the deepest attention.

On November 2nd, 1898, I attended United Service Lodge No. 24, and had the pleasure of seeing the Second and Third degrees conferred by the W. M. Bro. Sharp, in a very creditable manner.

On December 27th, 1898, I visited Vancouver-Quadra Lodge No. 2, with the M. W. Grand Master and officers of the Grand Lodge to install the officers of the Lodge. The ceremony was performed in a very able manner.

On January 5th, 1899, I visited Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1, in company with the M. W. Grand Master and officers of the Grand Lodge for the purpose of installing the officers of the Lodge. This ceremony was also performed in a very able manner.

On March 2nd, 1899, I again visited Victoria-Columbia Lodge No. 1 and saw W. Bro. Brett confer the Second Degree. The work was well done.

On March 15th, 1899, I again visited Vancouver-Quadra Lodge

No. 2, and witnessed the First Degree conferred by W. Bro. Stellard. It was given in a very able manner.

I am very glad to inform you that Masonry is making great progress in No. 1 District and the harmony of the Lodges is very satisfactory.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the M. W. Grand Master for the promptness with which I have been able to receive all information whenever I have applied to him for it.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

A. C. MUIR,

D. D. G. M., District No. 1.

Esquimalt, B. C., May 15th, 1899.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, DISTRICT NO. 2.

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the
Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—*

I beg leave herewith to submit my report on the condition of Masonry in District No. 2, and on the various duties performed by me during my term of office.

No member of Grand Lodge was more taken by surprise than myself, on finding that I had been selected by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master to fill the honorable and responsible position of District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 2.

During the year I have twice visited the Lodges in my Jurisdiction (with the exception of Mount Hermon and Ionic.) I was pleased to find the utmost harmony prevailing, and as the representative of Grand Lodge I was most fraternally received and entertained.

It is with regret that I have to report the destruction of the Westminster Masonic Temple, in the disastrous fire which overtook that city on the night of September 10th last.

The Westminster brethren have been most unfortunate, having twice lost their Temple by fire within seven years, but with their never-failing pluck and energy have again erected a temple to be dedicated to Masonry, the corner-stone of which was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, on Good Friday last. Both King Solomon and Union Lodges, and a great number of our brethren were heavy losers by the fire, but I am pleased to report that they have one and all, as all true Masons should, accepted the inevitable with good grace and are fast recovering from their losses.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

Cascade Lodge No. 12.—On November 21st, accompanied by Rt. W. Bro. Walker, Deputy Grand Master, and several of the brethren

of Union and King Solomon Lodges, I paid an official visit to this Lodge. There was a large attendance of the brethren of Cascade and Mount Hermon Lodges, and after opening, the officers of Cascade surrendered their chairs to the officers of Mount Hermon, who proceeded to confer the Third Degree upon a member of Cascade Lodge. I must congratulate the officers of Mount Hermon Lodge on their exemplification of this degree. I examined the books of the Lodge and found them very satisfactory.

Ionic Lodge No. 19.—On November 25th, accompanied by Rt. W. Bro. Walker, Deputy Grand Master, I visited this Lodge. The books I found quite satisfactory. I witnessed the conferring of the First and Third Degrees, which were very well done, under the circumstances, as these were the first degrees conferred since the installation of officers. I advised the brethren to hold frequent practices and thereby become better acquainted with their work, this they promised to do.

Acacia No. 22.—On December 3rd, accompanied by Rt. W. Bro. Walker, Deputy Grand Master, I paid a visit to this Lodge. Unfortunately for me this was the night for their election of officers, and consequently there was no degree work on. I found the books in a satisfactory condition.

Union No. 9.—On December 7th, accompanied by Rt. W. Bro. Walker, Deputy Grand Master, I paid this Lodge a visit. Upon examining the books I found everything satisfactory. During the evening the officers elected were for the ensuing year.

King Solomon No. 17.—On December 13th, accompanied as usual by Rt. W. Bro. Walker, Deputy Grand Master, I paid a visit to this, my own Lodge. I found the books in a satisfactory condition and the Lodge flourishing in all respects, there being five petitions read, and several balloted for. During the course of the evening the officers were elected for the ensuing year. On the evening of St. John's day I had the pleasure of installing the officers of this Lodge, in which I was ably assisted by W. Bros. Lewis, Armstrong and McKercher. A joint installation of Union and King Solomon Lodges was held, Rt. W. Bro. Walker installing the officers of Union. After the installation ceremonies were over, speeches from the newly installed officers of both Lodges were the order of the day, and a very pleasant evening was spent, the Junior Warden and Stewards not omitting their part of the entertainment in the refreshment room.

Acacia Lodge No. 22.—On December 28th, having received an invitation to install the officers of this Lodge, they having been granted a dispensation for the same, I visited this Lodge accompanied by Bros. Jarrett, Cowperthwaite, and Lees, and with their assistance installed the officers.

Mount Hermon, No. 7.—On January 3rd, accompanied by Rt. W. Bro. Walker, Deputy Grand Master, and twenty of the brethren from the Royal City, I visited this Lodge and witnessed the conferring of the second degree, which was excellently performed. A brother was examined as to his proficiency in the third degree, and passed a most creditable examination. This Lodge seems

to be in a most flourishing condition, W. Bro. Cowperthwaite having conferred more than 50 degrees during his term of office. I found the books in a most satisfactory condition, and must congratulate the Secretary on the efficient manner in which they are kept.

Pacific, No. 16.—On February 22nd I visited this Lodge. I was cordially received and well entertained. Pacific Lodge, unfortunately, has not the advantage of our City Lodges, only two members of this Lodge are residents of Mission, and at this season of the year it is difficult for the members to be present. It was unfortunately so on this occasion, two Fellow Crafts being in waiting for advancement to the third degree. Owing, however, to there being only seven members present, the raising had to be postponed for two weeks. Upon inquiry I found that the Worshipful Master had not been properly installed, and on March 4th I paid a second visit to this Lodge, accompanied by W. Bro. Armstrong, who assisted me in installing the Master. I witnessed the conferring of the second and two third degrees, which was very ably done, W. Bro. McLean performing his duties in a most creditable manner. After the Lodge closed we were entertained at a banquet at the Bellevue Hotel.

King Solomon, No. 17.—On May 9th, accompanied by Rt. W. Bro. Walker, Deputy Grand Master, I paid a second visit to this Lodge and witnessed the conferring of the third degree, which was done in a creditable manner. A candidate was examined in the work of the second degree and passed a splendid examination.

Cascade, No. 12.—On May 15th, accompanied by Rt. W. Bro. Walker, Deputy Grand Master, and a number of the Westminster brethren, I paid a second visit to this Lodge. I witnessed the conferring of the second and third degrees, which were done in their usual able manner by the officers of this Lodge.

Union Lodge, No. 9.—On May 31st the Deputy Grand Master and I paid a second official visit to this Lodge and witnessed the conferring of the first and second degrees. The work was well done W. Bro. Brine doing his part remarkably well. Two candidates were examined in the work of the first degree, and passed a creditable examination.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Most Worshipful the Grand Master for the honor conferred on me.

I have also to thank the officers and brethren of the Lodges in my district for the kindness and courtesy shown me during my term of office.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

GEORGE CUNNINGHAM,

D. D. G. M., District No. 2.

New Westminster, B. C., June 1st, 1899.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,
DISTRICT NO. 3.

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the
Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—*

As Deputy District Grand Master of No. 3, I regret to say that I am not in the position that I should be to report on the condition of Masonry in this district. My duties in connection with other matters took me away from home a great deal during the earlier part of my term. Later, and in fact up to the present time, we have had so much sickness in our family that I did not wish to leave them.

August 15th, 1898, I accompanied the M. W. Grand Master on his official visit to Kamloops Lodge, No. 10, particulars of which no doubt will be given in our Grand Master's report.

January 10th, 1899.—I paid an official visit to Kamloops, No. 10, and with the kind assistance of M. W. P. G. M. Bro. Clarke, installed the officers. All were well up in their work, and having plenty of it to do speaks very well for the condition of Masonry in Kamloops, No. 10.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

W. O. MILLER,

D. D. G. M., Dist. No. 3.

Kamloops, B. C., June 1st, 1899.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,
DISTRICT NO. 5.

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the
Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—*

I have the honor to submit my report on the proceedings of the various Lodges which I had the honor of visiting during my term of office as D. D. G. M. of District No. 5.

On the 19th day of July, accompanied by R. W. Bro. F. M. Young, Senior Grand Warden, I installed the officers elect of Doric Lodge, No. 18, a dispensation having been granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master to perform that ceremony on account of the same not being carried out at the regular meeting in June. After installation, and at the request of the retiring and newly installed Master, I conferred the third degree on a candidate who had passed a most satisfactory examination in the former degrees.

The work of conferring degrees by the officers of this Lodge for the year has been poor indeed, although I insisted that regular practice meetings should be held, which they endeavored to carry out. Still, the improvement at this time, the end of the Masonic year, is not very marked. I paid frequent visits during the year, the last being the meeting at which the election of officers for the

ensuing year took place, and strongly cautioned the officers elect upon the necessity of improving upon the work, and have no doubt judging from the personnel of the elected officers that such improvement will take place. Frequently I have impressed upon the members of this Lodge, for their own benefit, and the Craft in general in this place, that they should seek amalgamation with Ashlar Lodge, and I have every reason to believe that the members of Ashlar Lodge would give it favorable consideration.

On St. John's Day, December 27th, I installed the officers elect of Ashlar Lodge, in the presence of a large number of members and visitors, amongst whom were Bro. Ensor Sharp, W. M. of United Service Lodge, and Rt. W. Bro. F. M. Young, S. G. W., both of whom interested those present by delivering suitable addresses. After the work of the evening had been completed, I had the pleasure of presenting the retiring Master, Bro. P. M. Land, with a handsome Past Master's jewel, given by the members as a mark of esteem.

The newly installed Master, Bro. R. A. Bosanquet, intimated that papers relating to Masonry, affording discussion, would be read by a member or members at the regular meetings, when no degree work was on hand, thus making the meetings interesting and instructive to the Craftsmen. This, I think, is a matter to be commended, and should be considered by Masters of Lodges and acted upon. After the meeting closed the members were "At Home" to friends and visitors in the Opera House, where an enjoyable evening was spent.

Sunday, January 1st.—Ashlar and Doric Lodges attended Divine Service at St. Alban the Martyr's, the Worshipful Master Bro. R. A. Bosanquet conducted the service, the Senior and Junior Wardens read the lessons, and Bro. Bishop of Columbia delivered an eloquent sermon, and the Stewards took up the collection, the same being donated to the Protestant Orphans' Home at Victoria.

The Masonic Hall has been repaired generally, and the Lodge room renovated throughout, and now presents an appearance of attractiveness and comfort not excelled by any in the Jurisdiction.

February 4th.—Visited St. John's Lodge at Wellington, in company with Bro. Past Masters W. Stewart, M. Bate, John Frame and several other brethren from Nanaimo. The third degree was conferred on a candidate by the Worshipful Master, Bro. D. Stephenson, in that efficient manner so well known to St. John's Lodge. This Lodge is in a flourishing condition, financially and otherwise.

May 16th.—Accompanied R. W. Bro. E. Walker, D. G. M., on his official visit to Doric Lodge, and on the following evening to Ashlar Lodge, the result of which I will leave for his report.

Ashlar Lodge and the Craft in general sustains a loss in the departure of the W. M. Bro. R. A. Bosanquet to his home in England. Although he wanted to remain and complete his term of office (there being nothing else to detain him) the members, considering the circumstances in which the brother was leaving, deemed it just and proper he should proceed on his journey. We all wish him God speed.

I regret very much not having been able to visit Cumberland and Hiram Lodges. Circumstances over which I had no control prevented me.

In conclusion I beg to thank most sincerely the M. W. Grand Master for the distinguished honor he conferred on me. Also to the officers and members in general for the many courtesies extended to me during my term of office.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

GEO. THOMPSON,

D. D. G. M., District No. 5.

Nanaimo, B. C., June 3rd, 1899.

REPORT OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, DISTRICT NO. 6.

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Officers and Brethren of the
Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—*

I have the honor to submit the following as my report on District No. 6:

My first official visit after receiving the honor of the appointment of D. D. G. M., was to Kaslo Lodge, No. 25. I was accompanied by twelve of the brethren from Nelson. W. Bro. Byers conferred the third degree in a manner that could scarcely be excelled; the subordinate officers also did their work in a very creditable manner. One thing I could not help noticing and admiring was the excellent manner in which the candidates were posted. This is a point that is too often lost sight of, or looked upon as a matter of secondary importance. After the ceremony, refreshments were served, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The only liquid nourishment provided was tea and coffee, for by the By-laws of Kaslo Lodge no intoxicating liquors are allowed to be brought into the Lodge room. I should like to see more of such friendly visits between Lodges, as it gives the members an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with each other, and with the work done in the different Lodges, and tends to strengthen and cultivate the principles of Masonry. The Lodge room is very neat and comfortable, and the finances are in good shape. To add that the books are in first-class order is true, but entirely unnecessary, as long as W. Bro. Chipman is Secretary.

My next official visit, on the 10th of October, 1898, was to Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, at Rossland. On this occasion the third degree was conferred by W. Bro. Taylor in a very creditable manner. The subordinate officers have their work also well in hand, and appear to take a lively interest in their work. The books are well kept, the financial position is good, and Corinthian Lodge is in good hands.

On the 27th of December, 1898, we had a gathering in Nelson, unique and unprecedented in the Masonic history of Kootenay—a joint installation of the officers of all the Lodges in No. 6 district.

Nelson Lodge, No. 23, the pioneer Lodge of the district, did itself the honor of establishing the precedent, and invited the other Lodges. The invitation was accepted by the officers and a large number of the members from the Kaslo and Rossland Lodges, as well as a number of the brethren from Sandon.

With the able assistance of Very Worshipful Bro. Quinlan and W. Bros. Chipman, Hamilton, Lennox, McLeod, and Green, I installed W. Bro. Arthur and the officers of Nelson Lodge, No. 23; W. Bro. Byers and the officers of Kaslo Lodge, No. 25; and W. Bro. Dunn and the officers of Corinthian Lodge, No. 27.

After the ceremony we adjourned to the Hotel Hume, when about 125 sat down to a banquet, which was presided over by W. Bro. Arthur. After justice had been done to the substantial things provided by "mine host," the gathering was turned into a mutual admiration society, and the eloquence of the brethren was simply exhausted in complimentary speeches, and in saying pretty things about each other. This flow of eloquence, interspersed with songs and music, was kept up until the "wee sma" hours of the morning. It was without exception the most enjoyable Masonic banquet that I ever attended, and I sincerely hope that there will be more gatherings of that nature in the Kootenays in the near future.

With regard to my own Lodge, Nelson, No. 23, it is in much better shape to-day than it has ever been in any period of its history before. A large amount of work has been done during the past year. New blood is being infused into the Lodge, both by affiliation and by initiation, and I am happy to say that the true spirit of Masonry is being practised by the brethren, and the officers are taking more interest in the work than ever. Right here I want to add, that a large share of the credit for this is due to the indefatigable exertions and the good advice given by the Very Worshipful the Grand Secretary, and the members of Nelson Lodge have recognized this by making Bro. Quinlan an Honorary member, with full privileges. The average attendance is good and the books are well kept.

In addition to the three chartered Lodges in the district, there are three under Dispensation, viz., Sandon, Greenwood and Fort Steele.

On the 25th of May, 1899, I visited Alta Lodge, U. D., at Sandon. The third degree was exemplified by Bro. Bernard in a manner that would do credit to a much older lodge. They have a very comfortable Lodge room, all the necessary paraphernalia, a snug credit balance in the bank, a first-class Secretary, and a plenty of work ahead for some time to come. I have no hesitation in recommending that a Charter be granted to Alta Lodge.

The Lodges under dispensation at Greenwood and Fort Steele I have been unable to visit during the time they have been working. The transportation facilities have been very unsatisfactory. It takes from four to six days to visit either place. This, however, will soon be remedied, and in the course of a month or two it will be possible to cover the ground in two days.

The brethren at the town of Ymir are getting things in shape

to apply for a dispensation. This will make seven lodges (a perfect number) in District No. 6.

I am pleased to be able to report that on the whole Masonry in this district is in a very healthy condition. I doubt if any other district in the Province can show the same proportion of increase, and I venture to predict that the coming year will be equally successful.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

JNO. A. TURNER,
D. D. G. M., District No. 6.

Nelson, B. C., June 6th, 1899.

Resolved, That the reports of the D. D. G. M.'s be referred to a Special Committee.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed W. Bros. E. P. Flewelling, F. Bristow, E. A. Crease.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was read:

Resolved, That the report be received, adopted, and the Committee discharged.

N.B.—The report is included in proceedings under head of "Roll Call" (Grand Secretary.)

The report of Committee on Grievances was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND GRIEVANCES.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Committee on Petitions and Grievances, to whom were referred the papers in connection with the petitions for charters from Greenwood Lodge, U. D., situated at Greenwood; North Star, U. D., situated at Fort Steele; and Alta Lodge, U. D., situated at Sandon, beg to report that we have carefully examined the papers in connection with each of these petitions, and find them in order, and recommend that the charters asked for be granted.

In the matter of Adam Thompson, we recommend that the finding of Doric Lodge, No. 18, be sustained, and that the said Adam Thompson be expelled from all the rights and privileges of Masonry.

That we have carefully considered all the papers laid before us in the case of the appeal of Andrew Christian Martin from the sen-

tence of expulsion by Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1, and from all the evidence contained therein, we are of the opinion that the charges as laid constituted a Masonic offence, and that he was proven guilty of the charge as laid upon his own confession; therefore we would recommend that the finding and sentence of Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1, be sustained.

W. STEWART.
CHARLES E. TISDALL, } Committee.
R. F. GREEN.

Resolved, That the report be adopted and the Grand Secretary notify the Brethren in question of their expulsion by Grand Lodge.

The report of Committee on Charity, was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

The Charity Committee beg to report as follows:

Victoria-Columbia, No. 1, \$55.50; sufficiently strong not to require refund from Grand Lodge.

Victoria Masonic Relief.—Victoria-Columbia, No. 1, and Vancouver Quadra, No. 2, \$227.05. Lodges sufficiently strong not to require refund from Grand Lodge.

Ashlar, No. 3, \$9.00. No refund recommended for same reasons as above.

Mount Hermon, No. 7, \$165.00. No refund recommended for same reasons as above.

Union, No. 9, \$5.75 (ticket to Seattle). No refund recommended.

Mountain, No. 11, \$5.00. No refund recommended.

Cascade, No. 12, \$50.90. No refund recommended.

Miriam, No. 20, \$100. No refund recommended.

Nelson, No. 23, \$25.00. No refund recommended.

United Service, No. 24, 135.85. No refund recommended.

Acacia, No. 22, \$182.00. We recommend a refund of 25 per cent., or \$45.50.

In considering the items of this report we have been guided, first, by the financial standing of the Lodge, and second, by the purpose for which the relief was granted, the paying for transporta-

tion for able-bodied men is not, in our opinion an item which should be refunded by the Grand Lodge.

We recommend that the grant of five hundred dollars, given by the Most Worshipful Grand Master on the 17th September toward the relief of the brethren who were sufferers by the fire in New Westminster on September 10th, 1898, be confirmed by the Grand Lodge.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

JNO. A. TURNER, }
A. E. LEES, } Committee.
E. STUART WOOD. }

Resolved, That the report be received and adopted.

The report of the Committee on Chartered Lodges was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARTERED LODGES.

Kamloops, June 22nd, 1899.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia :—

We, your Committee, beg to report on the annual returns of Lodges as follows, noting that the date of receipt is in some cases considerably beyond the time laid down in Section 156 of Constitution, viz., May 1st, and that the mistakes mentioned have necessitated considerable alterations by the V. W. Grand Secretary :—

Victoria-Columbia, No. 1.—Value of Lodge furniture omitted*

Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2.—Value of Lodge furniture omitted.*

*Building and furniture are owned by Masonic Temple Association of Victoria.—G. S.

Ashlar, No. 3.—No return of funds in hand.

Cariboo, No. 4.—List of officers incomplete.

Mount Hermon, No. 7.—Received May 30th. Report difficult to decipher, owing to number of erasures.

Union, No. 9.—No report of funds in hand, and several mistakes made in return.

Mountain, No. 11.—Offices of Treasurer and Secretary combined.

Cascade, No. 12.—Figures sometimes unintelligible, owing to corrections.

Spallumcheen, No. 13.—No dues sent to V. W. Grand Secretary.* No receipts during the year, and no funds in hand.

*Dues received since meeting of Grand Lodge.—G. S.

Kootenay, No. 15.—Occupation and age of a new member not stated. Several mistakes in return.

Pacific, No. 16.—Received 13th June. Mistakes in return of new members.

King Solomon, No. 17.—Received 5th June.

Doric, No. 18.—Received 18th June. Master Mason raised after close of financial year (February 28th) included in report.

Miriam, No. 20.—Several mistakes in report. Date of an initiation not mentioned.

Acacia, No. 22.—Several mistakes.

Nelson, No. 23.—Received 29th May.

Cumberland, No. 26.—Received June 12th.

Corinthian, No. 27.—No returns of funds and Lodge property.

The mistakes in nearly every case are the result of the secretaries repeating the names of officers and Past Masters amongst the list of members, thereby giving the Grand Secretary infinite trouble in correcting them.

Your Committee would suggest:

1. That some action be taken by this Grand Lodge to enforce both a more careful report and an earlier return of such report by the Secretary of each Subordinate Lodge, and that those Secretaries whose reports are incorrect or late be informed of the inconvenience they have caused.
2. That the Secretaries be requested to return the names of members in full, especially the names of new members, for the better information of the Craft.
3. That space be left in the form of report for the names of the Master Masons who have not passed their examinations, as these names are returned by the Secretaries in various ways.

All of which is fraternally submitted,

T. N. WOODGATE.	} Committee.
W. J. BOWSER,	
RINALD A. BOSANQUET,	

Resolved, That the report be received with thanks and the Committee discharged.

The report of the Committee on the Reports of the D. D. G. M.'s was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REPORTS OF DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

We, the Committee to whom has been referred the reports of the D. D. G. Masters beg to report as follows:

We desire to mention the fact that all the District Deputies have made earnest efforts to cover the ground under their Jurisdictions, while we regret in some instances unavoidable circumstances have prevented them.

From these reports we are pleased to note that there is a large measure of progress, and of interest in Masonry throughout the whole Jurisdiction of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge.

We think that the fraternal visits as reported in Districts Nos. 2 and 6 might well be made the custom in all the Districts. It certainly speaks for that harmony which is the strength and support of Masonry. Cascade and Mount Hermon at Vancouver, as also Nelson and the other Lodges in the Kootenay, have set an example well worthy of imitation.

Since the prosperity of each Lodge depends upon the value of the individual monthly meeting, we think it exceedingly advisable that frequent special practice meetings should be held where needed, so that the work at regular meetings may be most efficient, first impressions with candidates being lasting.

From the information before us, we think the recommendation for amalgamation of Ashlar with Doric a wise step, and we venture to suggest that the incoming D. D. for District No. 5 be specially charged to urge such union and use his efforts in that direction.

We strongly commend the suggestion contained in the report from District No. 5, respecting papers relating to Masonry affording discussion at meetings where no regular work presents itself.

We further recommend that the several reports be received and printed in the Proceedings.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. P. FLEWELLING,	} Committee.
FRANK BRISTOW,	
EDWARD A. CREASE.	

Resolved, That the report be adopted.

The report of the Committee on the Address of the M. W. Grand Master and R. W. Deputy Grand Master was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ADDRESSES OF GRAND MASTER AND DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Committee, appointed to consider the addresses of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, beg to submit the following report:

We note with pleasure the assurances of the M. W. the G. M. of the continued peace and harmony throughout this Grand Jurisdiction, a condition recognized as essential to the advancement and highest interests of Freemasonry.

We join our G. M. in his expressions of sympathy extended to the families and relatives of our deceased brethren, and recommend that suitable mention of our Fraternal Dead be made in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge.

We endorse the action of the M. W. G. M. with respect to our relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and counsel measures of great prudence and caution in at all dealing with the question known as "Negro Masonry."

We congratulate the M. W. the G. M. on the communication reporting the first meeting of Grand Lodge in the Kootenays. We receive with unfeigned joy the news of the rebuilding of the Temple at New Westminster, after its second disaster, as well as the report of the general spread of Freemasonry by the establishment of new Lodges.

We fully concur in the views expressed as regards Representatives of Foreign Jurisdictions near this Grand Lodge, and respectfully bring the same to the notice of the incoming Grand Master.

While concurring in the granting of dispensations as recorded, we desire to thank the M. W. G. M. for clearly defining the lawful meaning of a "Masonic Dispensation."

The decisions of the M. W. the G. M. seem to us correct, and we cordially approve the instructions relating to visiting brethren.

We concur and gladly ratify the action of the M. W. the G. M. in so promptly forwarding relief to brethren of New Westminster.

We cordially approve and appreciate the satisfactory and painstaking labors of Bro. de Wolf-Smith, as manifested in the Report of Foreign Correspondence.

We share the opinion of the M. W. the G. M. respecting the need of a complete transcript of the minutes being kept in a book suitable for the purpose, to be known as "Official Records," and advise that the said transcript be countersigned by the M. W. the G. M. before being handed to the Committee on Printing.

On the subject of Charity we realize that the matter requires most careful consideration. Portions of the Constitution are con-

tradictory, and it is very doubtful if the disbursements are satisfactory, or, at least, are the best possible. We therefore suggest that the whole matter be referred to a committee with instructions to amend or alter the Constitution in accordance with the spirit of the Grand Master's communication.

We also accept and endorse the proposal respecting Certificate of Registration.

In conclusion, after carefully considering the M. W. the G. M.'s communication, we feel bound to express our cordial recognition of the amount of good work which the communication covers, and feel that it will do a great deal to uphold and advance the best principles of Freemasonry in this Province.

Your Committee note with satisfaction the active participation of the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master in the many matters of Masonic interest (as recorded in his address), and feel sure that his many interesting visitations will result in permanent good to the many brethren with whom he has thus been enabled to officially associate and instruct in the practice of pure Masonry.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

R. B. McMICKING, }
C. ENSOR SHARP, } Committee.
H. J. RAYMER, }

Resolved, That the report be received and adopted and the Committee discharged.

The report of Committee on Finance was read.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Kamloops, B. C., June 22nd, 1899.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Finance Committee beg to report that we have examined the books, papers and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and find the accounts and statements of the Grand Treasurer correct in all particulars. Those of the Grand Secretary we also find correct, but we note from the Report of the Grand Secretary that dues of the Spallumcheen Lodge, No. 13, have not been paid.

We find that the cash received, inclusive of the balance carried forward last year, is \$4,114.30.

The amount expended is as follows:—

Grand Secetrary's salary.....	\$ 600 00
Printing.....	457 00
Grand Treasurer.....	25 00
Stationery, postage, etc.....	85 32
Premium, Treasurer's Bond.....	20 00
Rent, Grand Secretary's Office.....	50 00
Vote to Foreign Correspondence Committee	50 00
Vote to Westminster Lodges for entertaining Grand Lodge..	150 00
Grand Tyler, including travelling expenses.....	35 00
Ten per cent. income to Charity Fund.....	239 49
Vote to Past Grand Master.....	100 00
Legal Expenses, July, 1896, to June, 1898.....	90 00
Insurance on Regalia.....	11 00
Printing W. Masters' Diplomas.....	60 00

Total\$1,972 72

Leaving balance on hand, \$2,141.58.

We note that the expenditure exceeded the estimates by about \$500.00, of which \$239.40 is accounted for by the 10 per cent. grant to Charity Fund and the balance is covered by Insurance, Printing P. M.'s Diplomas, Legal Expenses and Grand Tyler's salary and expenses, which were omitted from estimates last year.

The balance of cash carried forward is 2,141.58, or an increase of \$421.28 over last year.

The revenue from all sources was \$2,394.00, and last Year it was \$2,195.30, an increase of \$198.70.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Assets :—

Cash in Merchants' Bank of Halifax, Vancouver.....	\$1,997 35
Cash in Treasurer's Hands.....	144 23
	\$2,141 58

Liabilities—unknown or nil.....	
Income, as shown in Treasurer's statement.....	\$2,394 00

CHARITY FUND ACCOUNT.

We have checked the items of receipts and disbursements with the Bank Book, and find the same to be correct.

Receipts.

Interest on investments.....	\$250 50
Ten per cent of total income of Grand Lodge.....	239 40

Total.....\$489 90

An increase of \$23.50

Disbursements.

Refunds, Charity.....	\$424 60
Grand Treasurer.....	25 00
Taxes on mortgages.....	10 25
Grant to Mrs. Pugh.....	50 00

Total.....\$509 85

Investments as per Trustees' account.....	\$5,630 00
Cash at call, Bank of B. N. A.....	217 85
	\$5,847 85

Interest outstanding—

Columbia R. A. C., due 26th June, 1899.....	126 00
Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, due 26th June, 1899.....	40 80
B. H. John v. Catherine Greenwood, 5th June, 1899.....	40 50
P. J. Davis, first mortgage, \$1,300, 8 months, at 7 per cent....	60 67
L. M. Sturdy, first mortgage, \$600, 8 per cent. (two mos.).....	8 00
Pacific Lodge, first mortgage, \$500, 6 1-2 per cent. (10 mos.)....	27 09
Total.....	\$ 303 06

Cash balance in bank.....	\$260 48
Cash in Grand Treasurer's hands.....	239 40
	499 88

\$6,650 79

Showing an increase of \$100.38.

Liabilities—unknown or nil.

REMARKS.

In view of the state of the Grand Lodge funds we recommend that after this year the grant for the entertainment of Grand Lodge be discontinued.

Referring to the Trustees' report, we recommend that the past due note of B. H. John and Catherine Greenwood be collected.

We note that terms of the P. J. Davis mortgage respecting the payment of interest monthly has not been complied with.

We note that the Trustees do not consider it their duty to collect interest on investments, and recommend that the collection of interest be placed in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, and that he be paid the usual commission.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

H. N. RICH, } Finance
 GEO. JOHNSTONE, } Committee.
 T. J. ARMSTRONG, }

Resolved, That the report be received, adopted and the recommendation carried out.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was read.

Resolved, That the report be received and printed with their review of Sister Grand Lodges.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters were read from R.W. Bro. Fred McB. Young, Sr. Grand Warden and several others, expressing regret at being unable to attend the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

Resolved, That the several communications be received and filed.

DEFERRED BUSINESS.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

By W. Bro. F. M. Cowperthwaite:—

That Section 12 be amended by striking out the words after "summons" second line, to the word "year" fourth line, and substituting therefor the words "on the third Thursday in May of each year."

On the amendment being put to Grand Lodge it was declared lost.

By W. Bro. W. A. DeWolf-Smith:—

That Section 204 be amended by striking out all of fifth line of said Section, and that a new section, to be known as "Section 204A," be inserted as follows: "Every Brother shall prove his proficiency in the Master Mason Degree as soon as possible after the same has been conferred."

Resolved, That the amendment be adopted as proposed and that the Grand Secretary notify the secretaries of all Lodges forthwith, to place all candidates who have received the third degree, upon the list of members of their Lodges.

The M. W. Grand Master announced that Divine Service would be held by the V. W. Grand Chaplain at St. Paul's Church at 7.30 p. m.

Grand Lodge called off.

FIRST DAY—EVENING SESSION.

7.30 P.M.

7.30 p. m.—Procession was formed, when the officers and members of Grand Lodge, with numerous visitors, proceeded to St. Paul's Church where the V. W. Grand Chaplain, Bro. Irvine, conducted the services, and delivered an eloquent sermon.

On returning to the Lodge, Grand Lodge was called on.

Resolved, That the collection be placed in the hands of W. Bro. E. P. Flewelling, Rector St. Paul's Church, to be disposed of as he deemed expedient.

Resolved, That the thanks of Grand Lodge are hereby tendered the V. W. Grand Chaplain, and he be requested to furnish a copy of his sermon for publication.

Resolved, That the thanks of Grand Lodge are due and tendered

(1.) Kamloops Lodge No. 10.

(2.) The Rector, Church Wardens and choir St. Paul's Church.

(3.) The Canadian Pacific Railway Company for many courtesies extended.

Grand Lodge called off.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

10 A.M.—GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

The question of arranging the clauses of the Constitution relating to the "Charity Fund" as recommended by the Committee on Grand Master's Address, is referred to the Committee on Constitution to report at next Annual Communication.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed R. W. Bros. A. E. Lees and H. J. Raymer to places on Committee on Constitution in lieu of absentees.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed W. Bros. McMicking, Raymer and F. Bowser as scrutineers.

GRAND LODGE POLL.

Votes.		Votes.	
Lodge No. 1..	..5	Lodge No. 16..	..2
Lodge No. 2..	..4	Lodge No. 17..	..5
Lodge No. 3..	..3	Lodge No. 18..	..2
Lodge No. 4..	..1	Lodge No. 19..	..0
Lodge No. 7..	..6	Lodge No. 20..	..2
Lodge No. 9..	..6	Lodge No. 21..	..4
Lodge No. 10..	..8	Lodge No. 22..	..4
Lodge No. 11..	..1	Lodge No. 23..	..8
Lodge No. 12..	..4	Lodge No. 24..	..3
Lodge No. 13..	..0	Lodge No. 25..	..6
Lodge No. 14..	..3	Lodge No. 26..	..0
Lodge No. 15..	..2	Lodge No. 27..	..6
43		42	

The result of the election was as under:

BRO. R. EDEN WALKER, Union Lodge, No. 9.....	M.W. Grand Master
" HARRY H. WATSON, Cascade Lodge, No. 12, R.W.	Deputy Grand Master
" FRED. MCB. YOUNG, Doric Lodge, No. 18, "	Senior Grand Warden
" A. S. GOODEVE, Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, "	Junior " "
" REV. E. P. FLEWELLING, Kamloops Lodge, No. 10, V.W.	Grand Chaplain
" ARCH. B. ERSKINE, Vancouver-Quadra Lodge, No. 2, "	Treasurer
" WALTER J. QUINLAN, Victoria-Columbia " No. 1, "	Secretary
" E. HOSKER.....	Tyler

RECEPTION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The representatives of Sister Grand Lodges were called by the M. W. Grand Master and welcomed to this the Twenty-eighth Annual Communication and received with Grand Honors. Suitable replies were made by those so honored, tendering congratulations and expressions of fraternal regard.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

The M. W. Grand Master proceeded with the installation, W. Bro. F. M. Cowperthwaite acting as Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The officers elected and appointed, installed in "Ample Form" were:

BRO. R. EDEN WALKER, Union Lodge, No. 9.....	M. W. Grand Master
" HARRY H. WATSON, Cascade Lodge, No. 12, R. W. Deputy Grand Master	
* " FRED. MCB. YOUNG, Doric Lodge, No. 18, " Senior Grand Warden	
" A. S. GOODEVE, Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, " Junior " "	
" REV. E. P. FLEWELLING, Kamloops Lodge, No. 10. V.W. Grand Chaplain	
* " ARCH. B. ERSKINE, Vancouver-Quadra Lodge No. 2, " " Treasurer	
" WALTER J. QUINLAN, Victoria-Columbia " No. 1, " " Secretary	
" F. M. COWPERTHWAIT, Mt. Hermon Lodge, No. 7. W. Sr. Grand Deacon	
" W. E. VANSTONE, King Solomon Lodge, No. 17, W. Junior " "	
" H. BYERS, Kaslo Lodge, No. 25.....	W. Grand Supt. of Works
" C. E. SHARP, United Service Lodge, No. 24, " " Dir. of Cer.	
" FRED'K BUSCOMBE, Cascade Lodge, No. 12, " " Marshal	
" FRED. L. COCK, Hiram Lodge, No. 14, " " Stand. Bearer	
" GEO. JOHNSTONE, Nelson Lodge, No. 23, " " Sword Bearer	
" GEO. MIDDLETON, Kamloops Lodge, No. 10, " " Organist	
" THEO. MITCHELL, Acacia Lodge, No. 22, " " Pursuivant	
" THOS. JONES, Ashlar Lodge, No. 3.....	
" JNO. S. CLUTE, JR., Corinthian Lodge, No. 27.....	
* " JNO. A. CATHERWOOD, Pacific Lodge, No. 16.....	
* " GEO. BRINE, King Solomon Lodge, No. 17.....	Grand Stewards
" JOHN HIGHMAN, Miriam Lodge, No. 20.....	
* " C. D. MASON, Victoria-Columbia Lodge, No. 1.....	
" E. HOSKER.....	Tyler

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

*R.W. BRO. GEO. GLOVER, Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2. D.D.G.M. No. 1 Dist.	
" " CHAS. NENSON, Mt. Hermon, No. 7.....	" " 2 "
* " " CHAS. H. TEMPLE, Kootenay, No. 15.....	" " 3 "
* " " H. McDERMOTT, Cariboo, No. 4.....	" " 4 "
" " WM. STEWART, St. Johns, No. 21.....	" " 5 "
" " ROBT. F. GREEN, Kaslo, No. 25.....	" " 6 "

with jurisdiction over the following Lodges:

R.W. BRO. GEO. GLOVER.....	Lodges Nos. 1, 2 and 24
" " CHAS. NELSON.....	Lodges Nos. 7, 9, 12, 16, 19 and 22
" " CHAS. H. TEMPLE.....	Lodges Nos. 10, 11, 13, 15, and 20
" " H. McDERMOTT.....	Lodge No. 4
" " WM. STEWART.....	Lodges Nos. 3, 14, 18, 21 and 26
" " ROBT. F. GREEN.....	Lodges Nos. 23, 25, 27, 28, 29 and 30

* Not present for Installation.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE:

BRO. W. A. DEWOLF SMITH.....	Union, No. 9
" LACEY R. JOHNSON.....	Cascade, No. 12
" J. MUNROE MILLER.....	Vancouver-Quadra, No. 2

FINANCE :

BRO. H. N. RICH.....	Union, No. 9
" T. J. ARMSTRONG.....	King Solomon, No. 17
" GEORGE JOHNSTONE.....	Nelson, No. 23

JURISPRUDENCE :

BRO. E. D. McLAREN.....	Cascade, No. 12
" PETER GRANT.....	Union, No. 9
" ALEX. CHARLESON.....	Union, No. 9

PETITIONS AND GRIEVANCES :

BRO. WM. STEWART.....	Ashlar, No. 3
" GEO. L. LENNOX.....	Nelson, No. 23
" C. E. TISDALL.....	Cascade, No. 12

PRINTING AND CHARTERED LODGES ;

BRO. F. M. COWPERTHWAIT.....	Mt. Hermon, No. 7
" W. A. DeWOLF SMITH.....	Union, No. 9
" C. H. GATEWOOD.....	Cascade, No. 12

CHARITY :

BRO. A. McKEOWN.....	Victoria-Columbia, No. 1
" A. C. MUIR.....	United Service, No. 24
" R. E. BRETT.....	Victoria-Columbia, No. 1

CONSTITUTION :

BRO. WM. DOWNIE.....	Cascade, No. 12
" R. B. McMICKING.....	Vancouver-Quadra, No. 12
" FRED. McB. YOUNG.....	Doric, No. 18

Grand Lodge called off.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

2 P.M.—GRAND LODGE AT LABOR.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION.

By W. Bro. E. C. Sharp:

That Section 148 be amended by adding the words "which shall include a Certificate of Registration if applied for" to sub-Section 13 thereof.

By W. Bro. E. C. Arthur:

That Section 12 be amended by striking out the words after "summons" in the second line to the word "year" in the fourth line, and substituting therefor the words "on the first Thursday in May of each year."

By W. Bro. Jowett:

That Section 223 be amended by striking out the words

after the word "section" in the sixth line to the words "ballot-box" on the twelfth line, and substituting therefor "If the report of two members of the committee shall be unfavorable, no ballot shall be taken, but the Master shall, upon the reception of such report, declare the candidate rejected. If the report be favorable, the candidate shall be balloted for and if two black balls appear in the ballot-box the candidate shall be rejected."

Resolved, That the proposed amendments be referred to the Committee on Constitution, to report at this Communication.

W. Bro. F. Buscombe stated that, on investigation, it was found that the Lodges working the "Canadian Ritual" were in some respects at variance, and

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to unify the Canadian work as practised, and report at next Annual Communication.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed Bros. Watson, Johnstone and Tunstall as such committee.

MONEY GRANTS.

The Finance Committee brought down their Estimate of Expenditure for the year 1899-1900.

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Estimate of expenditure of for current year, in accordance with Section 86, Clause B., of the Constitution, we have the honor to report as under:—

Postage, exchange, etc.....	\$ 100 00
Secretary's salary.....	600 00
Printing Proceedings G. L. and stationery.....	500 00
Printing Past Masters' certificates.....	100 00
Treasurer's salary.....	25 00
Vote to Kamloops Lodge for entertaining Grand Lodge.....	150 00
Committee on Foreign Correspondence, printing.....	75 00
Ten per cent. revenue to Charity Fund.....	250 00
Insurance.....	11 00
Premium on Treasurer's bond.....	20 00

Total.....\$1,831 00

Funds in this account available at this date.....2,141 58

Estimated revenue of this account for year 1899-1900.....2,500 00

CHARITY FUND.

Treasurer's salary	\$ 25.00
Taxes on mortgages	15.00
Refunds of charity to transient brethren under Rule 2, Sec. 133 of Constitution	45.50
Special money grant re New Westminster fire, as recommended by Charity Committee	500.00
	\$585.50
Estimated income under this head	600.00

All of which is fraternally submitted.

H. N. RICH,
GEO. JOHNSTONE, } Finance
T. J. ARMSTRONG, } Committee.

The Committee on Constitution reported on proposed amendments:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.

Kamloops, June 25th, 1899.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your Committee on Constitution to whom was referred the proposed amendments, beg leave to report that they have carefully sidered the same, and recommend:—

1st. Adding the following words to sub-section 13, Sec. 148, "which shall include a Certificate of Registration if applied for," proposed by W. Bro. Sharp.

2nd. We also recommend the proposed amendment changing date of meeting of Grand Lodge, offered by W. Bro. Arthur.

3rd. Your Committee do not recommend the proposed alteration of Sec. 223, page 62, as proposed by W. Bro. Jowett.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

R. B. McMICKING, }
A. E. LEES, } Committee.
H. J. RAYMER, }

Resolved, That the report be adopted as read.

Resolved, That warrants be granted to the Lodges now under dispensation as recommended by the Committee on Petitions, &c.

To Greenwood Lodge, Greenwood, as No. 28.

To Alta Lodge, Sandon, as No. 29.

To North Star Lodge, Fort Steele, as No. 30.

And that the Grand Secretary procure the necessary fittings as specified in Subsection 2, Art. 148, Constitution

Resolved, That the twenty-ninth annual Communication of Grand Lodge be held in the City of Nelson.

Resolved in amendment, That the next annual Communication be held in the City of Vancouver. Amendment prevails.

No further business appearing, the Grand Lodge, after a benediction by the V. W. Grand Chaplain, was closed in "Ample Form," and so proclaimed, according to usage, by the Grand Marshal.

W. J. Quindan
Grand Secy.

First Six Officers of the Grand Lodge from Date of Organization.

Year.	Grand Master.	Dep. Grand Master.	Senior Warden.	Junior Warden.	Treasurer.	Secretary.
1871	I. W. Powell	J. F. McCreight	S. Duck	Henry Nathan	+M. W. Waitt	+H. F. Heisterman
1872	I. W. Powell	J. A. Grahame	S. Duck	+W. R. Clark	+M. W. Waitt	+H. F. Heisterman
1883	I. W. Powell	J. F. McCreight	W. Dalby	E. Harrison, sr.	+M. W. Waitt	+H. F. Heisterman
1874	S. Duck	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr.	+H. Brown	+M. W. Waitt	+C. M. Chambers
1876	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr.	+C. Thorne	+J. G. Vinter	+M. W. Waitt	+C. M. Chambers
1877	F. Williams	E. Harrison, sr.	+J. G. Vinter	+C. M. Chambers	+M. W. Waitt	E. Harrison, jr.
1878	E. Harrison, sr.	+J. G. Vinter	+C. M. Chambers	+H. Brown	+M. W. Waitt	E. C. Baker
1879	E. Harrison, sr.	+C. M. Chambers	+H. Brown	E. Harrison, jr.	+M. W. Waitt	E. C. Baker
1880	E. Harrison, sr.	+C. M. Chambers	+H. Brown	E. Harrison, jr.	+M. W. Waitt	E. C. Baker
1881	+C. M. Chambers	+H. Brown	W. T. Livock	E. Harrison, jr.	+M. W. Waitt	E. C. Baker
1882	+H. Brown	M. Bate	T. Trounce	R. B. Kelly	+M. W. Waitt	A. R. Milne
1883	E. C. Baker	T. Trounce	R. B. Kelly	R. Beaven	+M. W. Waitt	E. C. Neufelder
1884	E. C. Baker	T. Trounce	R. Beaven	A. R. Milne	W. Dalby	E. C. Neufelder
1885	W. Trounce	W. Dalby	A. R. Milne	+J. C. Hughes	+H. F. Heisterman	E. C. Neufelder
1886	W. Dalby	A. R. Milne	+J. C. Hughes	W. Stewart	+H. F. Heisterman	E. C. Neufelder
1887	A. R. Milne	J. S. Clute	D. H. Ross	H. Hoy	+H. F. Heisterman	+Henry Brown
1888	A. R. Milne	J. S. Clute	H. Hoy	A. McKeown	+H. F. Heisterman	+Henry Brown
1889	J. S. Clute	A. McKeown	+Marcus Wolfe	W. Downie	+H. F. Heisterman	+Henry Brown
1890	+Marcus Wolfe	+Marcus Wolfe	Sibree Clarke	Peter Grant	+H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan
1891	+Marcus Wolfe	Wm. Downie	Wm. Downie	R. B. McMicking	+H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan
1892	Wm. Downie	Sibree Clarke	Peter Grant	Alex. Charleson	+H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan
1893	Sibree Clarke	R. B. McMicking	Lacey R. Johnson	E. D. McLaren	+H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan
1894	R. B. McMicking	Lacey R. Johnson	Alex. Charleson	A. E. Lees	+H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan
1895	Lacey R. Johnson	Alex. Charleson	E. D. McLaren	Jno. W. Coburn	+H. F. Heisterman	W. J. Quinlan
1896	Alex. Charleson	E. D. McLaren	B. Williams	R. E. Walker	A. B. Erskine	W. J. Quinlan
1897	E. D. McLaren	D. Wilson	Jno. W. Coburn	H. H. Watson	A. B. Erskine	W. J. Quinlan
1898	D. Wilson	R. E. Walker	Fred McB. Young	A. S. Goodeve	A. B. Erskine	W. J. Quinlan
1899	R. E. Walker	H. H. Watson	Fred McB. Young			

†Deceased.

Grand Representatives Near Other Grand Lodges.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Alabama	Wm. S. Foster	Mobile
Arizona	R. W. Merrill P. Pingree	Freeman
Arkansas	W. Gaylord J. Klock	Eureka Springs
Beyrenth	R. W. Karl Benker	Beyreuth
Canada	R. W. John (reasor.)	Owen Sound
California	W. Aaron Chalfant	Punta Arenos
Carolina, North	W. H. I. Clark	Hamilton
Carolina, South	W. A. W. Taft	Charleston
Columbia, Dist. of	W. John Lockie	Washington
Colorado	W. John Humphreys	Denver
Connecticut	W. Nelson G. Hinckley	Hartford
Cuba, Isle of	W. Candido Sanchez	Havana
Dakota, North	W. V. S. Stickney	Dickenson
Dakota, South	W. J. H. Brown	Sionx Falls
Delaware	R. W. Charles C. Heisler	Newark
England	W. J. Braddock Moncton	London
Florida	W. Livingston W. Bethel	Key West
Georgia	W. Julius L. Brown	Atlanta
Hungary	V. W. St. Titl.	Buda Pesth
Idaho	Alfred Moyes	Pocatello
Illinois	R. W. Loyal L. Munn	Freeport
Indiana	W. Wm. F. Tulley	Indianapolis
Indian Territory	W. Herbert J. Evans	Muskogee
Ireland	R. W. F. C. Crossel	Newry
Italy	R. W. Adraino Lemme	Rome
Kansas	W. A. H. Connett	Great Bend
Louisiana	W. Amos Kent	Kentwood
Maine	W. T. R. Simonton	Camden
Manitoba	V. W. James A. Carley	Winnipeg
Maryland	W. Charles W. Hatter	Baltimore
Michigan	R. W. Reuben C. Webb	Detroit
Minnesota	W. Roland H. Hartley	Minneapolis
Mississippi	W. M. C. Shell	Houston
Missouri	W. Theo. Brace	Jefferson City
Montana	M. W. James H. Monteath	Butte
New Brunswick	W. John S. Benson	Chatham
New Hampshire	W. Arthur M. Dodge	Hampton Falls
New Jersey	W. Henry S. Haines	Burlington
New Mexico	W. W. Richard English	Albuquerque
New South Wales	W. J. F. Burns, L.S.A.	Sydney
New York	W. Thomas Bell	Bensonhurst
New Zealand	V. W. Harry Caplen	Hawera
Nebraska	W. William Adair	Lakota City
Nova Scotia	R. W. Thos. R. Harris	Aylesford
Nevada	W. George Gillson	Carson City
Ohio	W. W. A. Ward	Conneaut
Oregon	W. B. G. Whitehouse	Portland
Peru	W. E. V. Chavez	Lima
Prince Edward Is.	W. Daniel Ross	Stanley Bridge
Quebec	W. Dickson Anderson	Montreal
Rhode Island	W. George E. Webster	Newport
South Australia	W. Fredk A. Benchmore	Adelaide
Scotland	R. W. Edward Savage	Aberdeen
Tasmania	R. W. W. A. Macdougall	Hobart
Tennessee	M. W. J. C. Cawood	Knoxville

†Deceased.

1898
1899
D. Wilson
R. E. Walker
Fred McB. Young
A. S. Goodeve
A. B. Erskine
W. J. Quinlan

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR OTHER GRAND LODGES—CONTINUED.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Texas	W. T. H. Haynie	Lampasas
Utah	M. W. Wm. W. Woodring	Mt. Pleasant
Vermont	R. W. Henry W. Hutchings	Bellows Falls
Victoria, Australia ..	R. W. F. G. Manchester	Melbourne
Virginia	W. S. McLaughlin	Hallins
Virginia, West	R. W. Roger B. Rees	Clifton
Washington	W. James R. Hayden	Olympia
Wisconsin	R. W. Alex Moran	Onalaska

Grand Representatives Near This Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
Alabama	W. A. Haslam	Nanaimo
Arizona	W. I. Oppenheimer	Vancouver
Arkansas	M. W. E. C. Baker	Victoria
Beyreuth	W. James B. Johnson	New Westminster
Canada	M. W. William Dalby	Victoria
California	R. W. Mark Bate	Nanaimo
Carolina, North	W. James Stone	Barkerville
Carolina, South	W. William Manson	New Westminster
Columbia, Dist. of ..	M. W. Eli Harrison, sr	Victoria
Colorado	R. W. William Stewart	Nanaimo
Connecticut	W. Robert F. Green	Kaslo
Cuba, Isle of	W. John Teague	Victoria
Dakota, North	W. James Abrams	Union
Dakota, South	W. Thomas B. Pearson	Victoria
Delaware	R. W. R. B. Kelly	New Westminster
England	R. W. Eli Harrison, jr	Departure Bay
Florida	W. George S. Russell	Victoria
Georgia	M. W. E. C. Baker	"
Hungary	W. E. J. Salmon	"
Idaho	W. William Howay	New Westminster
Illinois	W. W. W. Northcott	Victoria
Indiana	M. W. David Wilson	"
Indian Territory	W. Thomas Shotbolt	"
Ireland	V. W. W. J. Quinlan	Nelson
Italy	W. D. Cartmel	Victoria
Kansas	R. W. John W. Coburn	Nanaimo
Louisiana	M. W. Fred'k Williams	Victoria
Maine	M. W. E. D. McLaren	Vancouver
Manitoba	R. W. Eli Harrison, jr	Departure Bay
Maryland	W. J. W. Hamilton	Nelson
Michigan	M. W. Alex. R. Milne	Victoria
Minnesota		
Mississippi	W. Alex. M. Fraser	New Westminster
Missouri	M. W. R. B. McMicking	Victoria
Montana	W. John Piercy	"

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NEAR THIS GRAND LODGE.—CONTINUED.

Grand Lodges.	Name.	Residence.
New Brunswick....	M. W. W. Downie.....	Vancouver
New Hampshire....	R. W. Eli Harrison, jr.....	Departure Bay
New Jersey.....	M. W. Eli Harrison, sr.....	Victoria
New Mexico.....	R. W. A. E. Lees.....	Vancouver
New South Wales..	M. W. E. C. Baker.....	Victoria
New York.....	R. W. W. A. DeWolf Smith.....	New Westminster
New Zealand.....	W. Gabriel Thomas.....	Vancouver
Nebraska.....	W. R. P. Rithet.....	Victoria
Nova Scotia.....	R. W. Peter Grant.....	New Westminster
Nevada.....	W. Joseph Brown.....	Nanaimo
Ohio.....	R. W. H. Hoy.....	New Westminster
Oregon.....	M. W. Alex. Charleson.....	"
Prince Edward Is..	W. A. H. B. Macgowan.....	Vancouver
Peru.....	W. C. Nevello Westwood.....	Nanaimo
Quebec.....	W. James Reid.....	Quesnelle
Rhode Island.....	W. John Teague.....	Victoria
Scotland.....	M. W. A. R. Milne.....	"
Tasmania.....	M. W. Lacey R. Johnson.....	Vancouver
Tennessee.....	W. H. J. Rayner.....	Roseland
Texas.....	W. Munroe Miller.....	Victoria
Utah.....	M. W. Angus McKeown.....	"
Vermont.....	M. W. Sibree Clarke.....	Kamloops
Victoria, Australia..	M. W. W. Dalby.....	Victoria
Virginia.....	R. W. Fred McB. Young.....	Nanaimo
Virginia, West.....	M. W. Eli Harrison, sr.....	Victoria
Washington.....	W. Thomas Downie.....	Revelstoke
Wisconsin.....	M. W. J. S. Clute.....	New Westminster
South Australia.....	R. W. Ben. Williams.....	Victoria

DIRECTORY OF GRAND LODGES.

Canada and United States.

Grand Lodges.	Grand Secretary.	Address.
Alabama.....	H. Clay Armstrong.....	Montgomery
Arizona.....	George J. Roskruege.....	Tucson
Arkansas.....	F. Hempstead.....	Little Rock
British Columbia..	W. J. Quinlan.....	Nelson
Canada.....	John J. Mason.....	Hamilton, Ont
California.....	George Johnson.....	San Francisco
Colorado.....	Edward Carroll Parmelee.....	Denver
Connecticut.....	John H. Barlow.....	Hartford
Dakota, South.....	George A. Pettigrew.....	Flandreau
Dakota, North.....	F. J. Thompson.....	Fargo
Delaware.....	Benj. F. Bartram.....	Wilmington
Dist. of Columbia..	William R. Singleton.....	Washington, D.C.
Florida.....	W. P. Webster.....	Jacksonville

DIRECTORY OF GRAND LODGES.—CONTINUED.

CANADA AND UNITED STATES.

Grand Lodges.	Grand Secretary.	Address.
Georgia	W. A. Wolihin.....	Macon
Idaho	Theo. W. Randall.....	Buise City
Illinois.....	J. H. C. Dill.....	Bloomington
Indiana.....	W. H. Smythe.....	Indianapolis
Indian Territory.....	J. S. Murrow.....	Atoka
Iowa	Theodore S. Parvin.....	Cedar Rapids
Kansas.....	Albert K. Wilson.....	Topeka
Kentucky	H. B. Grant.....	Louisville
Louisiana	Richard Lambert.....	New Orleans
Maine.....	Stephen Berry.....	Portland
Manitoba.....	W. G. Scott.....	Winnipeg
Maryland	Jacob H. Medairy.....	Baltimore
Massachusetts.....	Sereno D. Nickerson.....	Boston
Michigan.....	Jefferson S. Conover.....	Coldwater
Minnesota.....	Thos. Montgomery.....	St. Paul
Mississippi.....	J. L. Power.....	Jackson
Missouri.....	John D. Vincil.....	St. Louis
Montana.....	Cornelius Hedges.....	Helena
Nebraska.....	.....	Omaha
Nevada.....	C. N. Noteware.....	Carson City
New Brunswick.....	J. T. Hartt.....	St. John
New Hampshire.....	George P. Cleaves.....	Concord
New Jersey.....	Thos. H. R. Redway.....	Trenton
New Mexico.....	Alpheus A. Keen.....	Albuquerque
New York.....	Edward M. L. Ehlers.....	New York
North Carolina.....	John C. Drewry.....	Raleigh
Nova Scotia.....	Hon. W. Ross.....	Halifax
Ohio.....	J. H. Bromwell.....	Cincinnati
Oregon.....	James F. Robinson.....	Eugene
Oklahoma.....	J. S. Hunt.....	Stillwater, O. T
Pennsylvania.....	William A. Sinn.....	Philadelphia
Prince Edward Is.....	Neil McKelvie.....	Summerside
Quebec.....	John A. Isaacson.....	Montreal
Rhode Island.....	Edwin Baker.....	Providence
South Carolina.....	Charles Inglesby.....	Charleston
Tennessee.....	John B. Garrett.....	Nashville
Texas.....	John Watson.....	Houston
Utah.....	Christopher Diehl.....	Salt Lake City
Vermont.....	W. G. Reynolds.....	Burlington
Virginia.....	George W. Carrington.....	Richmond
Washington.....	Thomas M. Reid.....	Olympia
West Virginia.....	George W. Atkinson.....	Wheeling
Wisconsin.....	John W. Laffin.....	Milwaukee
Wyoming.....	W. L. Kuykendell.....	Saratoga

Great Britain.

England	Edward Letchworth.....	London
Scotland.....	David Murray Lyon.....	Edinburgh
Ireland.....	Archibald St. George.....	Dublin

DIRECTORY OF GRAND LODGES—CONTINUED.

European.

Grand Lodges.	Grand Secretary.	Address.
Austro-Hungary . . .	Joseph Hausdorfer	Buda Pesth
Belgium	Rian Nedgrot	Brussels
Denmark	William Schyette	Copenhagen
France—Lodge	P. D. Hamill	Paris
France—Council	E. Berard	Paris
Germany	Ernest Kelman	Berlin
Three Globes	C. W. Lynde	Berlin
National	Wilhelm Rahe	Berlin
Royal York	Karl Bouche	Berlin
Hamburg	F. W. Bokelmann	Hamburg
Hess Darmstadt . . .	Dr. Carl Nies	Darmstadt
Union Electric	Karl Paul	Frank't-on-Main
Saxony	F. G. Steubler	Dresden
Bavaria	G. H. Fischer	Beyreuth
Greece	S. Stephenson	Athens
Holland	J. Boudewinze	The Hague
Italy		Rome
Portugal	J. d'A. de Franco-Netto	Lisbon
Roumania	Dr. N. Theodoreschi	Bucharest
Spain—Lodge	Don Juan U. Y. Fernandez	Madrid
Spain—National	Julio Fernandez Espina	Madrid
Sweden	Robert Dickson	Stockholm
Switzerland	Hermann Krauss	Geneva
Hungary	Maurice Gelleri	Buda Pesth

Australia.

New South Wales . . .	A. H. Bray	Sydney, Aust'ala
Victoria, Australia . .	John Braim	Melbourne, Vic'a
South Australia	James H. Cunningham	Adelaide
Tasmania	John Hamilton	Hobart
New Zealand	Rev. Wm. Ronaldson	Christ Church, NZ

APPENDIX No. 1.

RETURNS —OF— SUBORDINATE LODGES

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE

M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia,

From March 1st, 1898, to February 28th, 1899.

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE No. 1.

VICTORIA, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Brett, R. E.....	Worshipful Master	Chipchase, R.....	Junior Deacon
Mason, C. D.....	Senior Warden	Tubman, T.....	Steward
Crocker, J. W.....	Junior Warden	Greenwood, A. E.....	Steward
Clarke, Hardress.....	Treasurer	Edwards, S. W.....	Inner Guard
Oddy, B. S., P.M.....	Secretary	Stockham F.....	Tyler
Northcott, W. M., P.M.....	Dir. of C.	Andrews, J.....	Organist
Riddell, P. J.....	Senior Deacon		

PAST MASTERS.

Baker, E. Crow.	Pearson, T. B.	Stewart, A.
Belyea, A. L.	Piercy, J.	Trounce, T.
Cartmel, D.	Parker, Jas.	Teague, J.
Flint, A. St. G.	Russell, G. S.	Williams, F.
Millar, Jas.	Richardson, W. A.	Williams, B.
McKeown, A.	Salmon, E. J.	Weiler, J.
McGregor, M.	Shotbolt, T.	Quinlan, W. J.
McFarland, G.	Salmon, H. L.	

MASTER MASONS.

Arthur, Wm.	Carthew, J. A.	Ellis, W. H.
Angus, J. K.	Cameron, Allan.	Elliott, J. G.
Blackwood, E. E.	Courtney, G. L.	Fraser, R. L.
Brown, T. H.	Court, S. C.	Flumerfelt, A. C.
Rostock, H.	Dodds, Thos.	Guns, T. S.
Carse, Wm.	Draney, Robt.	Greenhalgh, S.
Croft, H.	Dean, John.	Gilchrist, W. L.
Campbell, D.	Danby, W. H.	Gutmann, M.
Creech, W.	Davy, John.	Hollins, J. M.
Church, J. E.	Esnouf, R. B.	Hail, John.
Currall, W. D.	English, Robt.	Hobbs, F. V.

VICTORIA-COLUMBIA LODGE No. 1.--(Continued).

MASTER MASONS.

Holland, J.	McTavish, G. L.	Ross, H. G.
Jeffcott, J. E.	McKilligan, J. B.	Rosteen, J.
Johnson, E. E. C.	Nicholson, J.	Renouf, C. E.
Kelly, S. L.	Northcott, J. A.	Shaw, W. H.
Ker, D. R.	Nicholson, Thos.	Saunders, H.
Langley, E.	Nicholles, J.	Stanton, H.
Lindsay, J. A.	Phillips, A.	Sinclair, R.
Munro, G. E.	Prossor, T. H.	Surnerton, R. H.
Meshier, G. C.	Prevost, W. L.	Speed, J. W.
Meshier, G.	Payne, G. F.	Sheppard, H. W.
Malette, C. E.	Pennock, W. H.	Sharp, K.
Milne, G. L.	Preece, T.	Schmidt, G.
Martin, A. C.	Perdue, G. M.	Spicer, N.
Munn, H. A.	Perry, W. H.	Trickey, W.
Mable, W. J.	Porter, R. J.	Tulk, C. J.
Murray, W.	Peiser, K. K.	Townsend, N. F.
Moffatt, J.	Robinson, J. J.	Toneri, P. E.
Martin, Archer.	Rusta, A.	Turtle, W.
McCahill, M.	Ridgman, A. H.	Whittaker, W.
McNiven, A.	Robson, F.	Wonger, J.
McCandless, A. G.	Robinson, T. H.	Wickens, E. G.
McKenzie, W. G.	Reddick, W.	Williams, W. T.
	Richards, O.	

DEMITTED.

Colthart, J.	Knight, Geo.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Brown, Douglas.	Clarke, J. S.	Williams, W. H.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Christie, G. D.	Davidson, A. A.
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MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Sheehan, D.

SUSPENDED.

Jones, John	Martin, J. T.	Nookes, Jas.
Kettle, W. H.	Salmond, S.	Levy, J. L.
	Wills, Albert.	

RESTORED.

Nicholles, John.

VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE No. 2.

VICTORIA, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Wednesday of each month

OFFICERS.

Stallard, C. E.	Worshipful Master	Paul, E. B.	Senior Deacon
Robertson, F. V.	Senior Warden	Shaw, Jas.	Junior Deacon
Horne, Thos. H.	Junior Warden	Helsternan, B. S.	Steward
Lovell, J. B.	Treasurer	Drake, Richard.	Steward
Berry, Francis.	Secretary	Pope, W. F. C.	Inner Guard
Glover, Geo., P.M.	Dir. of Cer.	Stockham, F. (non-member).	Tyler
	Parsell, Wm. N.		Organist

VANCOUVER-QUADRA LODGE, No. 2.—(Continued).

PAST MASTERS.

Dalby, Wm.	Harrison, Ell., Jr.	Netherby, S. B.
Dow, G. A.	McMicking, R. E.	Phillips, J. E.
Erskine, A. B.	Miller, J. W.	Ross, D. H.
Grahame, J. A.	Milne, A. R.	Thompson, M. H.
Harrison, Ell., Sr.	Muir, A. M.	Walter, Henry.
	Wilson, D.	

MASTER MASONS.

Anderson, D. H.	Fletcher, Cecil.	McKenzie, A. M.
Anderson, John.	Forman, Jas.	Newman, A.
Anderson, Wm. A.	Gregg, F. T.	Orniston, Geo.
Austin, H. J.	Gustafson, Olaf.	Orr, John T.
Bullen, W. F. T.	Gregory, F. B.	Owen, W. D.
Bucknam, S. W.	Haynes, W.	Paterson, John.
Bragg, W. T.	Heron, Robt.	Fascoe, W. H.
Bryce, Jas.	Hunter, Jas.	Phillips, John.
Blackwood, Jas.	Henderson, Thos.	Rithet, R. P.
Bragg, Ed.	Harris, C. F.	Ruckle, Henry.
Butler, J. W.	Hayward, Chas.	Ross, Adam.
Calbreath, J. C.	Henderson, Anton.	Robertson, G. W.
Cunningham, Robt.	Hall, Ernest.	Randolph, I. I.
Colgdarrippe, John.	Harrison, S. G.	Roberts, Samuel R.
Cox, C. N.	Irving, P. X.	Steele, Peter.
Cutler, M. F.	Jones, W. H.	Shaw, Thos.
Campbell, Chas.	Jackson, Archibald.	Shaw, Richard.
Campbell, John Jas.	Leiser, Simon.	Sinclair, Duncan.
Chestnay, W. R.	Lismore, Jos.	Scott, H. I.
Challoner, W. L.	Madden, Jehr.	Smith, A. E.
Catterell, Thos.	Meyer, Wm.	Sinclair, T. F.
Clayton, G. L.	Magnesen, Alf.	Turner, J. H.
Currie, A. W.	Magnesen, T. M.	Tolmie, Andrew.
Campbell, Rev. John.	MacIntosh, C. W.	Turpell, Wm.
Dawley, F. J.	MacIntosh, Robt.	Taitt, Leonard.
Dillon, C. F.	McLennan, John.	Williams, John.
Dinsdale, Robt.	McDougall, Edwin.	Walkley, Arthur.
Ercole, Dominique.	McAfee, Andrew.	Walter, A.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Eorns, Walter.	Morrison, Richard.	Piper, Chas. T. W.
Hughes, W. Ottis.	McCullough, Henry.	Stewart, Alex.
Lang, A. D.	Miller, Eugene P.	Wade, A. E.
	Farsons, C. W.	

SUSPENDED.

Bishop, George.

RESTORED.

McKenzie, A. W.

ASHLAR LODGE, No. 3.

NANAIMO, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Wednesday in each month.

OFFICERS.

Bosanquet, Reginald A..Wor. Mas.	Carpenter, Geo. W...Senior Deacon
Jones, Thos. ....Senior Warden	Stewart, H. D. R....Junlor Deacon
Brown, Jos. M., P. M...Dir. of Cer.	Robinson, Samuel .....Steward
Lewis, Wm. ....Junlor Warden	Warwick, John .....Steward
Bate, Mark, P. M.....Treasurer	Byers, F. W.....Inner Guard
McKenzie, C. C., P. M...Secretary	Barnes, E. C.....Tyler

ASHLAR LODGE, No. 3.—(Continued).

PAST MASTERS.

Coburn, J. W.	Land, Peter M.	Thomson, George.
Drake, S.	Leighton, W. K.	Stewart, Wm. (hon. member).
Frame, John.	Renwick, John.	Westwood, C. W.

MASTER MASONS.

Aitken, James.	Joncas, Frank.	Richardson, J. W.
Baker, Geo.	Kirkwood, Robt.	Richardson, W.
Barrett, E. W.	Lamont, Malcolm.	Robinson, W. J.
Bevilockway, George.	Larss, P. E.	Ross, Henry.
Boggiano, D.	Leask, Geo.	Ross, Wm.
Bradley, James.	Lukey, R. J.	Rumming, C. H.
Campbell, Walter.	McBroom, Arch.	Sablston, John.
Cowie, James.	McCulloch, W.	Scouse, Wm.
Davis, Thos. H.	McKenzie, Murdock.	Shaw, J. C.
Dobson, David.	McKinlay, Jas.	Skotvold, Erik.
Duffie, Matthew.	McKinnell, Andrew.	Sloan, Wm.
Elliott, Chas. A.	McLachlan, R. K.	Stirtan, W. J.
Flack, Thos.	McMillan, Ewen.	Summerhayes, A.
Foster, N. G.	Marshall, Wm.	Tait, Andrew.
Frame, Jas.	Martell, J.	Thurston, A. J.
Harris, David.	Mehaffey, Robt.	Trounce, Wm.
Henderson, Alex.	Moss, Thos. F.	Trumper, J. A.
Horne, A. G. (Hon. Mem.)	O'Connell, Thos.	Van Houten, W. J.
Horne, A. H.	Patterson, John.	Watson, A. V.
Hoskin, E. A.	Pender, James.	Young, C. N.
Hughes, John.	Reilley, J. C.	Zellinsky, Saul.

MASTER MASONS.

Who have not passed Examination in Third Degree nor signed the By-Laws.

Erb, Samuel.	Pottinger, D. R.	Rowe, R. H.
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DEMITTED.

Vance, Jno.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Eyers, R. F.	Davis, David.	Thomas, David.
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CARIBOO LODGE, No. 4.

BARKERVILLE, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Saturday of each month.

OFFICERS.

James Stone....Worshipful Master	H. McDermott.....Secretary
L. F. J. Champlon..Senior Warden	T. F. McGregor.....Senior Deacon
L. A. Bonner.....Junior Warden	W. J. Kirkpatrick..Junior Deacon
A. Kelly .....Treasurer	James Innes .....Tyler

CARIBOO LODGE, No. 4.—(Continued).

PAST MASTERS.

Stephenson, Wm.	Kelly, A.	Hunter, T. C.
Stone, Jas.	McDermott, H.	Innes, Jas.

MASTER MASONS.

Glendenning, P.	Reld, Jas.	Wormold, Wm.
Johnston, W. A.	St. Laurent, J. H.	Lanyon, John.
McMillan, Jas. C.	Shaw, D. R.	McKay, David.
O'Neill, Cornelius.	Thormahlen, Theo.	Tegart, A. H.
Phelps, W. H.	Watt, Hugh.	

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Lewis, Jones	Lewis, Paulsen, Charles	Joachim, Egan, Peter, F. C.
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MOUNT HERMON LODGE, No. 7.

GRANVILLE STREET, VANCOUVER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Hogg, W.	Worshipful Master	Marrion, R.	Dir. of Ceremonies
Bowser, W. J.	Senior Warden	Brown, J. T.	Senior Deacon
Bell, H. A.	Junior Warden	Logan, J. J.	Junior Deacon
Lees, A. E.	Treasurer	Shelton, Giles.	Senior Steward
England, James	Secretary	Stevens, G. A.	Junior Steward
Whittington, R.	Chaplain	Lundie, R.	Inner Guard
Robertson, H.		Tyler	

PAST MASTERS.

Cowperthwaite, F. M.	Allan, P. A.	Thomas, G.
Ward, Talbot.	Jarrett, S. N.	Little, James.
Nelson, Charles.	McNaughton, P.	Casselman, R.
Wilson, Geo. I.	Oppenheimer, I.	

MASTER MASONS.

Aconley, Wm.	Chase, W. H.	Hobson, W.
Ashworth, E. B.	Duke, Thos.	Haywood, V. W.
Archer, W. C.	Dinsmore, Geo.	Hillier, Chas.
Allan, R. H.	Douglas, C. S.	Hooper, Wm.
Amy, H.	Dixon, E. C.	Hutchins, G. W.
Banfield, J. J.	Davies, Wm.	Hunt, W.
Bell, Thos.	Erwin, W.	Helm, Francis.
Bell-Irving, D. H.	Edwards, R.	Harrison, H. C.
Boyd, Thos. H.	Edwards, Rev. H.	Hodgson, R. C.
Bridge, Wm.	Evans, W. H.	Johnstone, W. A.
Buckley, H.	Fraser, D. M.	Jopson, J. B.
Burds, W. D.	Farr, Ed.	Jones, James.
Campbell, M. D.	Forsberg, C. G.	Kerfoot, W. J.
Cameron, Jos.	Ford, C. W.	Knowdell, E. J.
Ceperley, H. T.	Graham, Chas. O.	Linton, A.
Cook, Ed.	Grant, R. J.	Lyman, Wm.
Cordiner, P.	Gray, Thos.	Lewis, H. L.
Clayton, Ed.	Gibson, W. F.	Lockwood, Ed.
Cleland, Alex.	Hanna, J. J.	Maitland, R. R.
Cox, Ed.	Hatch, G. W.	Miller, A. R.

MOUNT HERMON LODGE, No. 7.—(Continued).

MASTER MASONS.

Miller, Henry.	McLeod, Rev. J. M	Smith, Geo.
Miller, Hugh.	McMillan, A. E.	Salloway, A. E.
Mason, Robt.	Neelands, T. F.	Scott, Samuel.
Matheson, M.	Oakley, N. L.	Thompson, N.
Murray, John.	Plethall, John.	Trorey, Geo. E.
McCallum, A. R.	Pendo'a, A.	Turnbull, J. D.
McClay, Samuel.	Ralph, W.	Weeks, Geo. W.
McCord, B. C.	Roberts, S.	Wood, W. D.
McDonald, Wm.	Rowe, O. G.	Woods, J. G.
McDonald, W. A.	Scott, Thos.	Williams, John.
McKinnon, Thos.	Skeffington, Geo. H.	Wright, A. J.
McLuckle, J. M.	Southcott, J. J.	Webster, Robt.

DEMITTED.

Gillies, D. W.	Leslie, James.	McFarlane, J. H.
Beatty, John.	Ford, Frank A.	Ramsdell, J. H.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Evans, Walter F.	Gilchrist, Alex.	Smith, E. S.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Bailey, Wm.	Wilson, Tom.	Foreman, C. F.
	Baer, W. W.	Ford, W. R.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Springer, B.

SUSPENDED

Calkins, S. F.	Rattenbury, F. M.	H. C. Mason.
J. L. Franklyn.	Weetzel, C. C. H.	F. J. Painton.
Middler, Wm.	J. C. Douglas.	W. S. Smith.

UNION LODGE, No. 9.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Brine, George ..	Worshipful Master	Young, Jas. A.....	Senior Deacon
Cotton, Arthur F...	Senior Warden	Sanderson, D. P.....	Junior Deacon
McBride, Richard ..	Junior Warden	McKenzie, Duncan E.....	Steward
Johnson, Jas. B., P. M.,	Treasurer	Chapman, Robt. Keane....	Steward
DeWolf Smith, Wm. A., P. M.,	Sec.	Muir, Thos. Albert....	Inner Guard
		Forrester, Jas. Jarvie.....	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Binnie, Thomas.	Howay, William.	Murray, John (hon.)
Bule, John.	Hoy, Henry	Rich, Harry Nelson.
Charleson, Alex.	Kelly, Robert	Scott, James George.
Clute, John Stillwell.	McKercher, Alexander.	Spiers, James.
Grant, Peter.	Manson, William.	Walker, Richard Eden
	Welsh, Daniel.	

UNION LODGE, No. 9.—(Continued).

MASTER MASONS.

Annandale, Thos. S.	Hendry, John.	McMartin, Jas. Arthur.
Archibald, Alex.	Hughes, J. Henry.	McNair, Alexander.
Bates, John C. A.	Irvine, Robt. D.	McNair, Ebenezer.
Bole, Wm. Norman.	Jackson, Frederick.	McNeeley, Thomas.
Ecanson, Robt. F.	Jardine, Robt.	McRae, Alexander, Jr.
Boutillier, Francis.	Johnson, William.	McRae, Alexander, Sr.
Carter, Cecil H.	Junkin, J. C.	Patterson, Donald.
Coatham, Wm. C.	Laidlaw, Feigus.	Peele, Percy R.
Coulthard, F. John.	Lazenby, Arthur L.	Phillips, Jas. Edward.
Croucher, Chas.	Lehman, Isaac.	Rankin, Jas. Veitch.
Cunningham, Wm. Jno.	Mead, George.	Riekman, Reginald J.
Dodd, William.	Mills, Joseph.	Riske, Lucius, W.
Douglas, Ben. (hon.)	Morrison, John.	Robson, Fred. H.
Dunlop, Wm. Edward.	Munn, Angus.	Ryall, J. A.
Elson, Wm.	Munn, D. J.	Scott, John T.
Ems, John.	Murchie, David.	Shadwell, Howard B.
Fraser, James D.	McBride, Arthur Hill.	Shiles, Delaware A.
Gilley, Jas. Rogers.	McColl, William.	Sloan, William James.
Gilley, Walter A.	McGillivray, D.	Smith, Alfred.
Gray, John H.	Tingley, Stephen.	Whyte, John C.
Hart, Fred. John	McIntosh, Robt. W.	

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Allen, Alfred Edward.	Holmes, Audrey Julian.	Robertson, Robt. John.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Carrie, Thomas.	Harris, James.	Harvie, Robt.
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SUSPENDED.

Wiggins, John.

KAMLOOPS LODGE, No. 10.

KAMLOOPS, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Middleton, Geo.	Worshipful Master	Mallery, Geo. T.	Senior Deacon
Stevens, Charles S.	Senior Warden	Procter, A. P.	M. D. Jr. Deacon
Harper, J. Milne	Junior Warden	Barnhart, P. A.	Steward
Roadley, Thos.	Treasurer	Risteen, Geo. S.	Steward
Wood, E. Stuart, P. M.	Secretary	McDonald, A. G.	Inner Guard
Miller, W. O., P. M.	Dir. of Cer.	Cunningham, R. S.	Tyler.

PAST MASTERS.

Beattie, Martin.	Fownall, Guy F.	Slater, Chas. R.
Bannerman, John.	Ridley, H. C. M.	Tunstall, S. J., M. D.
Clarke, Sibree, M. D.	Horlock, D. W. H.	Flewelling, Ernest P.

KAMLOOPS LODGE, No. 10.—(Continued).

MASTER MASONS.

Bruce, Hugh.	Jenkins, J. W.	Ostrom, A. D.
Bunt, Robt.	Jardine, W. D.	Orchard, E. A.
Crawford, M. F.	Johnson, G. E.	Roper, W. J.
Carment, J. J.	Looney, Geo.	Ross, M. G.
Decker, I.	Marshall, Ernest.	Sirson, John.
Duck, Jacob.	Meldrum, J. A.	Strutt, Chas. H.
Fingland, A. R.	McCullough, Geo.	Sutton, A. W.
Foreman, D.	McKay, J. A.	Swan, Alex.
Graham, T. W.	McDonald, Hugh.	Sweeney, Thos.
Herchimer, John.	McMoline, Alex.	Vicars, John.
Hume, W. R.	Nelson, Wm.	Wills, W. S. N.
	Noble, A.	

DEMITTED.

Munro, A. S., M. D. McKay, G. C.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Hastings, John. Bushell, A. W.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Bruce, John.

MOUNTAIN LODGE, No. 11.

DONALD, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Monday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Trimble, E.	Worshipful Master	McPherson, J. E.	Senior Deacon
Stirratt, J. H.	Senior Warden	Redgreen, S.	Junior Deacon
Patmore, R. W.	Junior Warden	McLean, Angus.	Steward
Pitts, J. C. (P. M.)	Treasurer	Caldwell, W. H.	Steward
Pitts, J. C. (P. M.)	Secretary	McGinnis, James	Inner Guard
Ruttan, W. S. (P. M.) ..	Dir. of Cer.	Anderson, John	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Downie, Thos.	Mathie, James.	Clark, S. (hon. member)
Newman, Wm.	McLeod, John.	

MASTER MASONS.

Allan, John.	Griffith, J. E.	McKay, D.
Anderson, John.	Hobbs, J. E.	McMillan, C.
Ames, C. F.	Hopgood, John.	Parson, H. G.
Baines, C. T.	Jameson, D.	Robinson, Fred.
Clark, Thos.	Jackson, Fred.	Russell, E. J.
Cross, J. H., M. D.	King, L.	Sclloway, L. T.
Denman, A. W.	Manuel, J. E.	Seaton, R. H. G.
Errickson, A.	Marpole, R.	Van Antwerp, W. J.
Elson, W. H.	Mack, James.	Wall, W. H.
Graham, G. W.	Maclean, D. H.	Wall, J. B.
	Wright, James.	

MOUNTAIN LODGE, No. 11.—(Continued).

DEMITTED.

Marsh, A. S.

Sargant, W. H.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Spragge, Arthur G. M. Wilson, William G.

CASCADE LODGE, No. 12.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Monday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Buscombe, F....Worshipful Master	Gilmour, H. B.....Director of Cer.
Hartley, F. W.....Senior Warden	Tucker, L. N.....Senior Deacon
Wilson, C.....Junior Warden	Selater, James.....Junior Deacon
Watson, Harry H., P. M....Treas.	Macneill, C. B.....Steward
Sykes, Sidney C.....Secretary	McDonald, Hugh E.....Steward
Irvine, John, P. M.....Chaplain	Robinson, R.....Inner Guard
Hosker, E.	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Downie, Wm.	Atkins, Thomas E.	Tisdall, C. E.
Horne, J. W.	McLaren, E. D.	Tracey, T. H.
Johnson, Lacy R.	Gatewood, C. H.	Turner, John J.
Miller, James E.	McGregor, P. M.	Kilby, E. C.
Macgowan, A. H. B.	Scymour, J. R.	Hutchinson, G. H.

MASTER MASONS.

Atkinson, John.	Cannon, H. E.	Evans, Thomas.
Alexander, R. H.	Canvee, J. T.	Forest, A. B.
Apenes, R. A.	Camble, H. J.	Fuller, G. W.
Atkinson, C. D. F.	Clouston, Thos.	Ferguson, R. C.
Auld, William.	Crowder, J. S.	Flummerfelt, W. E.
Allice, A. H.	Crawford, J. G. H.	Ferguson, J. B.
Andrews, Henry.	Christie, W. G.	Greer, William.
Ashcroft, E. E.	Campion, J. W.	Green, Horace.
Barnett, T. E.	Creery, A. McC.	Grant, Robert.
Blackmore, W.	Campbell, J. C.	Graves, A. M.
Brown, Geo.	Cowan, G. H.	Gray, T. C.
Ruxton, J. M.	Campbell, A. O.	Garden, J. F.
Bowell, J. M.	Creelman, H.	Griffith, G.
Brown, H. K.	Crombie, J. G.	Henderson, S.
Braid, Wm.	Christian, V.	Hosker, E. J.
Breeze, J. D.	Campbell, W.	Hammersley, A. St. G.
Bridgeman, E. C.	Clarke, H. C.	Hall, J. D.
Bourne, A. S.	Davidson, C. N.	Hunt, S. Lucas.
Bissitte, D. C.	Doig, James.	Hodgson, M. W.
Bales, H. H.	Dragoylovich, C.	Hamilton, R.
Burgess, T. H.	Dutcher, G. S.	Holmes, A. W. S.
Brooke, R. R. H. S.	DeForest, H. J.	Hook, W.
Burns, H.	Drake, W. E.	Hodson, W.
Blythe, T. A.	Diplock, A. B.	Hastings, T. W.
Brunie, H.	Dowling, F. W.	Hiff, A. E.
Charleson, D. B.	Douglas, F.	Jordan, G. A.
Choate, E.	Debeck, G. W.	Jaack, J. F.

CASCADE LODGE, No. 12.—(Continued).

MASTER MASONS.

Kelth, Samuel.	McCreery, Joseph.	Stracey, A. A. H.
Kent, H. W.	McKay, Robert.	Stuart, J. D.
Loutett, J. T.	McGregor, D. C.	Sharpe, Thos.
Leask, John.	McNeil, Thomas.	Smith, J. H.
Lough, Wm.	McIntosh, W. A.	Schofield, F. J.
Ledger, A. K.	McDonald, A.	Tiffin, J. B.
Lett, C. A.	McFarland, J. E. W.	Turner, H. B.
Lewthwalte, W.	Nickson, J. J.	Tite, J. Reynolds.
Lee, Joseph.	Nichol, W. L.	Twyman, H.
Mcmson, J. W.	Orbell, R. H.	Townley, T. O.
Mathleson, D. A.	Oldershaw, C. R.	Vick, G. H.
Miller, J. G.	Prenter, S. L.	Vance, John.
Marshall, D. G.	Pace, W. J.	Watson, J. H.
Murray, W.	Plumm, Wm.	Williams, James.
Macaulay, C. H.	Prescott, John.	White, Joseph.
Mansell, C. B.	Righter, P. D.	Winch, V. R.
Mahoney, E. C.	Rathgebor, F.	Walker, T. W.
MacDonnell, D. G.	Robinson, A.	Williams, John.
Maxwell, G. R.	Robertson, D.	Widdicombe, H. T.
McFarland, J. W.	Sterling, D.	Weld, O.
McKerracker, J. F.	Sissons, T. H.	Welsh, R. A.
McGillveray, D.	Stewart, O. M. C. G.	Wood, J. G. C.
McNab, Allan.	Simpson, G. R.	

DEMITTED.

Burnett, Frank.	Buxton, Samuel.	Brown, E. Vesey.
Collins, Henry.	McFarlane, Jas. A.	Leonard, W. L.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Bradburn, H. H.	Stacey, A. R.	Skinner, R. B.
Stephens, T. J.	Waterman, W. J.	Lambert, A. C.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Walker, E. A.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Brocklesby, Harry A. Little, James.

RESTORED.

Leonard, Walter L.

SPALLUMCHEEN LODGE, No. 13.

ARMSTRONG, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Saturday on or before the full moon
of each month.

OFFICERS.

Becker, C. J.	Worshipful Master	Pelly, Richard S.	Secretary
Fletcher, T. W.	P. M., Sr. Warden	Harris, H. E. E.	Senior Deacon
Clinton, Thomas	Jr. Warden	McLeod, John	Junior Deacon
McLeod, N. I., P. M.	Treasurer	Keys, Hugh	Inner Guard
Laur, Jacob		Tyler	

SPALLUMCHEEN LODGE, No. 13.—(Continued).

PAST MASTERS.

Costerton, Clement F.

MASTER MASONS.

Barnes, Fred. H.	Hamilton, Wm.	Lambly, Chas. A. K.
Fenton, Wm. J.	Hanson, Reg. Ed.	McDonald, Arch.
Forbes, A. F.	Hassard, Frank.	Reinhart, Wm.
Hall, Wm.	Kenny, Noah Holt.	Schubert, Chas. T.
	Wright, James Milton	

DEMITTED.

Brown, John D.

HIRAM LODGE, No. 14.

COURTENAY, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Saturday on or before the Full Moon
of each month.

OFFICERS.

Millard, H. P..	Worshipful Master	Stewart, Hugh, P. M..	Dir. of Cer.
Cairns, Thos.....	Senior Warden	Williams, Thos. E....	Senior Deacon
Rennison, A. W....	Junior Warden	Bridges, Chas.	Junior Deacon
Urquhart, Alex.	Treasurer	Mathewson, W. A., P. M..	Steward
McConnell, R. S.....	Secretary	Grant, Robt., P. M.....	Steward
McAllan, Wm. J.....	Chaplain	Edwards, Thos.	Inner Guard
	Berkeley, John R.....		Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Eckonsell, Tom. Cock, Fred. Lucas.

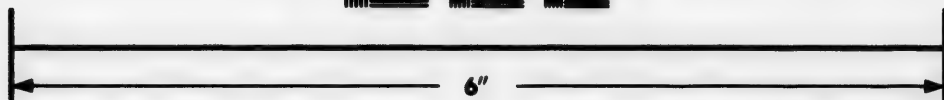
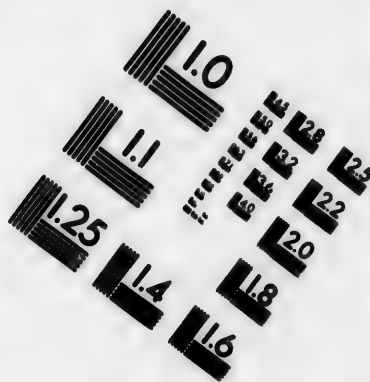
MASTER MASONS.

Brown, Thomas.	Grieve, Joseph.	Piercey, Thos. H.
Cliffe, Sam. J.	Holmes, Joseph B.	Read, Geo. H.
Cowle, Alexander.	Howe, George.	Reid, William.
Gilmore, Robt.	Moore, Joseph C.	Robbins, Fenwick W.
Graham, Robt.	Muschamp, E.	Roseborough, Thos. H.
Grant, Kenneth.	Piercey, John.	Viles, William.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Seater, Andrew.





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KOOTENAY LODGE, No. 15.**REVELSTOKE, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Monday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Bourne, H. J....	Worshipful Master	Courcier, H. N....	Dir. of Ceremonies
Barber, J. G.....	Senior Warden	Ker, W. J.....	Senior Deacon
Holsen, C.	Junior Warden	Smythe, H. E. R....	Junior Deacon
McCarty, F.	Treasurer	Taylor, T. E. L.....	Steward
Flindt, G. S.....	Secretary	Prat, H. J.....	Inner Guard
Aman, C. J.....			Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Fraser, F.	Temple, C. H.	Crage, W. F.
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MASTER MASONS.

Robinson, D.	Johnson, H. O.	Little, J.
David, M.	Cummings, A.	Walton, P.
Donnelly, H.	Mesley, F.	McGregor, A.
Paul, A.	Kellie, J. M.	Gordon, R.
Randall, A.	Hambury, H.	Vall, J. W.
Ross, W. E.	Kegler, J.	

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Vickers, W. H.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Ford, F. A.

PACIFIC LODGE, No. 16.**MISSION CITY, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the Wednesday on or before the Full Moon of each month.

OFFICERS.

MacLean, J. D..	Worshipful Master	Barrie, Chas.	Senior Deacon
Catherwood, J. A..	Senior Warden	Smith, S.....	Junior Deacon
Stewart, George.....	Junior Warden	McFarlane, J. C.....	Steward
Plumridge, Jas.	Treasurer	Gourley, John	Steward
Downes, T. J. L., P. M....	Secretary	Huston, H.	Inner Guard
Barker, John.....	Dir. of Ceremonies	Reeves, James	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Bond, E. J.	Jones, E. T.	Shook, M. F.
	York, L. C.	

MASTER MASONS.

Choate, J. L.	Jewell, Geo.	McTaggart, Geo.
Clair, W. F.	Johnson, Ole.	McGillivray, Wm.
Duncan, A.	Long, R. J.	Nichols, Thos.
Espen, R. I.	Munro, Alex.	Rabbling, T. H.
Fossett, Chas.	Morrison, M.	Stewart, Thos.
Gourley, R.	Malcolm, James.	Stewart, W. S.
Hannah, S.	McMillan, H.	

PACIFIC LODGE, No. 16.—(Continued).

DEMITTED.

York, A., P. M.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Dawson, John.

Fraser, Norman St. Clair. Webb, John.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Boldrick, F. W.

Lennon, Jos.

Pratt, F. W.

KING SOLOMON LODGE, No. 17.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of every month.

OFFICERS.

Vanstone, W. E.....Wor. Master
Brine, A. J.....Senior Warden
Fisher, C. C.....Junior Warden
Howay, F. W.....Treasurer
Gilchrist, D. W.....Secretary
Scouler, Rev. T.....Chaplain

May, R.Senior Deacon
Welch, C. A.....Junior Deacon
Allen, J. C.....Steward
Jones, W. A. D.....Steward
Strople, S. N.....Inner Guard
Forrester, J. J., non-member. Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Armstrong, T. J.
Bule, John (hon.)
Boggs, G. W.

Cunningham, George.
Fraser, A. M.
Lewis, L. A.

Manson, Wm. (hon.)
McAskill, M.
Shirley, J. H.

MASTER MASONS.

Ballantyne, J. B.
Barclay, D.
Beale, H. D.
Brooke, H.
Campbell, Wm.
Campbell, J. A.
Carty, John.
Cooksley, W. T.
Crane, H.

DeGrey, F. S.
Digby, J. C.
Garrett, A.
Gifford, T.
Gowan, Rev. H. H.
Haines, E. W.
Kirk, H. T.
Kirkland, E. W.
Marshall, B.
Young, C. S.

Miller, W.
Munn, L. G.
McLean, I. M.
McLennan, M. D.
McPherson, S.
Nelson, N.
Ritchie, Geo.
Sampson, T.
Tait, E. G. W.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Foulds, P. J.

Schaaake, H.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Faulding, W. H.
McDonald, Hugh.
McFarlane, R. M.

Ovens, T.
Prael, F. W.
Sprott, John H.

Sayers, R.
Stinchcombe, E. B.
Reid, R. L.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Teschner, H. C.

DORIC LODGE, No. 18.

NANAIMO, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Third Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Meakin, F. C.....	Worshipful Master	Drysdale, W. F.....	Senior Deacon
Anderson, Alex.....	Senior Warden	Neen, Jacob.....	Junior Deacon
Dalton, Alex.	Junior Warden	McRae, R.....	Steward
Dobeson, Thos.....	Treasurer	Evans, Robt.....	Inner Guard
Norris, Wm. E.....	Secretary	E. C. Barnes (non-member)...	Tyler
McCuish, N.....	Dir. of Ceremonies		

PAST MASTERS.

Davis, Lewis T.	Haslam, Andrew.	Morton, W. H.
Pleace, H.	Youill, S. B.	

MASTER MASONS.

Crossan, James.	Morrow, Hugh.	Stickles, C. H.
Curry, Robt.	McKeehnle, R.	Schisler, H. L.
Dawson, Henry.	McRae, D. A.	Smith, J. H.
Davison, J. H.	McKinnon, Alex.	Trawford, C. J.
Davis, A. A.	McKinnell, D.	Wamsley, Matthew.
Dempsey, Hugh.	McGregor, James.	Wylie, John.
Kelly, W. J. D.	Newcombe, Holmes.	Yarwood, E. M.
Mills, Thomas.	Richardson, Thos.	Young, W. A.

DEMITTED.

Roble, H. J.

EXPELLED.

Thompson, Adam.

RESTORED.

Stickles, C. H.

IONIC LODGE, No. 19.

CHILLIWACK, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Friday on or before the Full Moon, and on St. John the Evangelist's Day.

OFFICERS.

Paisley, L. W....	Worshipful Master	Lindell, A. F.....	Senior Deacon
Rose, W. A.....	Senior Warden	Johnson, I.....	Junior Deacon
Ferris, W. F.....	Junior Warden	Reade, G. B.....	Steward
Reeves, C. B., P. M.....	Treasurer	Collinson, H. H.....	Steward
Pelly, J.	Secretary	Hatch, C. J.....	Inner Guard
Gillanders, A. H., P. M....	Chaplain	R. Nowell	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Cawley, S. A.	Iogan, John A.	Nelson, A. M.
Gillanders, A. H.	Mellard, S.	Reeves, C. B.

MASTER MASONS.

Bromley, J.	Jackman, W. T.	Sharpe, T. A.
Campbell, J. A.	Kingcombe, E.	Smith, H. N.
Cruikshanks, A. A.	Kipp, H.	Trethewey, A.
Dickson, W. H.	McDonald, W. C.	Vedder, A. S.
Driscoll, A.	McRae, P. R.	Wilson, P. H.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

McBeath, D.	Atkinson, J. L.	McGillivray, D.
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MIRIAM LODGE, No. 20.

VERNON, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday on or before the Full Moon of each month.

OFFICERS.

Highman, J.....	Worshipful Master	O'Brien, M. J.....	Secretary
McClintock, E. S. O....	Sr. Warden	Boyce, B. F.....	Senior Deacon
Haws, R. C.....	Junior Warden	Crowley, D.....	Junior Deacon
Simes, C. D.....	Treasurer	Lambly, R.	Inner Guard
Robinson, T. W.....		Tyler	

PAST MASTERS.

Burnyeat, J. P.	Megraw, A.	Norris, L.
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MASTER MASONS.

Billings, F.	Morrow, F.	Colbeck, H.
Bailey, C. R.	McGowan, F.	Armstrong, W. J.
Shatford, W. T.	Blair, Thos.	Cuttler, Ira.
	Morris, O.	

DEMITTED.

Marlin, James M.	Muir, Alex.	Cunningham, Geo.
Postill, Wm.	Venn, A. J.	McIntosh, H.
	Germaine, W. L.	

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

White, R. B.

SUSPENDED.

Pool, A.	Shorts, C. A.
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ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 21.

WELLINGTON, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Saturday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Stephenson, D., P. M..	Wor. Master	Gear, Robert.....	Senior Deacon
Matheson, M.....	Senior Warden	Hughes, Henry	Junior Deacon
Jeffries, Jos.....	Junior Warden	Cartwright, James	Steward
Evans, D. M.....	Treasurer	Kerr, John	Steward
Hawes, F. W.....	Secretary	Young, Chas. W.....	Inner Guard
	Watson, Robt.	Tyler	

PAST MASTERS.

Bald, William.	Frame, John (honorary).	Stewart, William.
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MASTER MASONS.

Armstrong, Samuel.	Hygh, G. E.	Merman, E. J.
Bailey, Richard.	Jessup, Grant.	Mitchell, George.
Edwards, John D.	Jones, William.	Norcross, J. E.
Fisher, Fred. C.	Kilpatrick, W. R.	Patterson, D.
Fraser, W. G.	Matthews, John.	Rumsby, James.
Gillespie, John.	McCrae, John.	Scott, J. H.
Haigh, John.	McLeod, A. W.	Spratt, Thos.
Hamburger, M.	McMillan, Peter.	Wasson, H. J.
Hay, Robt.	McMurtrie, A. J.	Wilson, David.
	Young, John.	

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 21.—(Continued).

DEMITTED.

Doran, Ewen. Trites, G. B.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Eberts, D. W. Fisher, Robt. McKenzie, Jas. A.

ACACIA LODGE, No. 22.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Bowser, F.....	Worshipful Master	Kaye, J. B....	Dir. of Ceremonies.
McKinnon, Dan.	Senior Warden	Hamilton, P. S.....	Senior Deacon
Hicks, Valentine....	Junior Warden	Leonard, Geo. C.....	Junior Deacon
Brydone-Jack, W. D., P. M..	Treas.	Little, Mark	Steward
Stewart, Allan C.....	Secretary	Anderson, R. A.....	Steward
Clinton, H. G. F., Rev....	Chaplain	Jackson, J. W.....	Inner Guard
	Stretch, Thos. P.....		Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Yates, Chas. F. Rickers, John W. Michell, Theophilus, Jr.

MASTER MASONS.

Astell, Sebastian.	Eligh, William.	Lillie, Thos. W.
Armstrong, Andrew.	Fetherstone, Richard D.	Michell, Theophilus, Sr.
Bethune, Alexander.	Griffiths, Benjamin.	Morris, J. Muntain.
Cameron, Geo. A.	Harris, Daniel.	Moorecroft, Albert.
Christle, Frank L.	Henderson, Harold M.	Perry, Henry H.
Corrigan, Francis.	Hibbert, John.	Saunders, Charles.
DePencier, Henry.	Holloway, Chas. F.	Smith, Alexander.
Dunn, B. J.	Jamieson, George W.	Syder, E. F.
Doherty, Isaac W.	Johnson, John.	Tidy, Thomas.
Duncanson, Thos.	Jordan, C. W.	Wells, Malcolm R.
Edmonds, E. F.	Larney, Thos. C.	Wescott, W. S.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Seaton, W. J. Adamson, Robt. McIsaac, Arch.
 Stewart, Chas. G.

NELSON LODGE, No. 23.

NELSON, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the Second Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Arthur, E. C....	Worshipful Master	Fletcher, F.....	Dir. of Ceremonies
Hodgins, A. E.....	Senior Warden	Connon, H. E.....	Senior Deacon
Crease, E. A.....	Junior Warden	Hall, G. A. B.....	Junior Deacon
Pollard, W. B.....	Treasurer	Shaw, W. B., Sr.....	Steward
Lennox, G. L.....	Secretary	Beasley, H. E., Jr.....	Steward
Frew, R., Rev.....	Chaplain	Day, R. W.....	Inner Guard
	Maltby, Chas.		Tyler

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NELSON LODGE, No. 2 --(Continued).

PAST MASTER

Hamilton, John.	Johnstone, Geo.	Lennox, G. L.
Fletcher, Frank.	Newton, W. M.	Pearcy, W. S.
Turner, John A.	Dundee, Chas.	Macleod, M. T.
Jowett, W. A.	Ragless, Wm.	

MASTER MASONS.

Bell, John.	Gordon, John G.	Nolan, J. H.
Brown, C. S. M.	Holt, Grange V.	Park, William.
Beer, George S.	Holdich, A. H.	Rosendale, O. M.
Beer, Edgar George.	Horne, Wm. Wallace.	Robertson, J. Roderick.
Brockman, Sydney	Hodge, George C.	Roberts, Willara.
Clark, David.	Irvine, Fred.	Scully, M.
Clements, F. S.	Jackson, J. Harry.	Senkler, E. C.
Driscoll, John J.	Kirkpatrick, J. A.	Shaw, S. P.
Doner, Jacob.	Kinghorn, R. S.	Sherwood, A. R.
Dewar, J. A.	Love, James H.	Schrivver, Hiram, Jr.
Emerson, F. E.	LaBan, David, Dr.	Teetzell, W. F.
Evans, Henry James.	Marks, A. J.	Taylor, Sydney S.
French, Charles.	Mills, Thos. A.	Toze, John.
Forin, Alex., Dr.	Macdonald, W. A.	Waterman, Charles A.
Green, Frank C.	McFarland, Duncan A.	

DEMITTED.

Brown, Edward Vesey.	Preston, Edward.	Steele, George W.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Davys, M. S.	Hampson, J.	Walbey, R. C.
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Dufresne, John C.	McFarland, Frank L.	Vincent, H. M.
Kydd, George.	Speers, John M.	

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Spencer, Wm. Gilbert.	Berendt, Frank.
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SUSPENDED.

Stanley, Gilbert.

UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 24.

ESQUIMALT, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Wednesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Sharpe, Rev. C. E.....Wor. Master	Roberts, T. D.....Senior Deacon
Woodgate, T. E. N.....Senior Warden	Russell, Ben. H.....Junior Deacon
Bailey, F. J.....Junior Warden	Burgess, H. T.....Sr. Steward
Phillips, George .....Treasurer	Stevens, Chas.....Jr. Steward
Tennent, T. H.....Secretary	Gabriel, John.....Inner Guard
Barber, Rev. W. D.....Chaplain	Hammond, Chas.....Tyler
Welsh, John.....Dir. of Ceremonies	Harding, Edward.....Organist
Wells, A. F.....Ass. Dir. of Cer.	

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UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 24. — (Continued).

PAST MASTERS.

Muir, Arch. Connel. Beatley, John Jas.

MASTER MASONS.

Andrews, James.	Eve, Benjamin.	Lambert, George.
Battcock, John.	Fox, Albert E.	Lay, John Carter.
Brown, A. S.	Farrall, Henry S.	Mytton, Thos. Percy.
Bainbridge, R. T.	Fletcher, George F.	Clford, Richard E.
Brown, Geo. W.	Goodwin, William S.	Phillips, John E. H.
Bown, George H.	Hale, Alfred H.	Phillips, William T.
Cleave, Richard C.	Hammond, Henry E.	Piper, Thomas.
Conway, Edward.	Harvey, John Edward.	Rankin, Richard F.
Day, John.	Higham, Harry.	Reason, Edwin H.
Dockree, Walter.	Isbister, James.	Slow, William A.
Evans, Daniel.	Logan, Hugh.	Wells, Edwin Rhodes.
	Wall, Edmond J.	

DEMITTED.

Geake, Harry T.	Panter, Rev. Chas. E.	Langabeer, Walter.
Allison, Alfred.	Boyd, Robt. Grey.	Lawrence, Geo. F. P.
Lowton, Alfred.	Woodhouse, John.	Hingston, John.
Pover, Edward H.	Moss, Henry Wm.	Holloway, Wm.
Dean, Frederick J.	Bean, Chas. Henry.	

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS

Gadsby, John.

KASLO LODGE, No. 25.

KASLO, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Byers, H.	Worshipful Master	Glegerich, H.	Senior Deacon
Townsend, F. R.	Senior Warden	Engilsh, Wm.	Junior Deacon
Cameron, J. M.	Junior Warden	Fletcher, Arch. McL.	Steward
Goodenough, A. W.	Treasurer	White, Bruce	Steward
Chipman, Elon E.	Secretary	McIntosh, J. F.	Inner Guard
	Wing, Stephen C.		Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Chipman, E. E.	Green, Robt. F.	Henry, John.
	Martin, George E.	

MASTER MASONS.

Barnfather, W. R.	Green, Samuel H.	Nelson, Per. August.
Becker, Edward.	Hunter, William.	Peters, Jos. S.
Bongard, Daniel M.	Johnson, Nelson T.	Roberts, Abraham L.
Bradley, John R.	Kelley, John W.	Strathearn, Robt.
Caldwell, John A.	King, Grant M.	Stewart, Alex.
Cameron, H. A.	Marshall, A. S.	Swainson, Geo. H.
Cameron, R. R.	Mighton, Stuart A.	Weir, Duncan J.
Carlson, Gust. A.	McAndrews, M. P.	Wells, Emerson E.
Crawford, Daniel A.	McAnn, Chas. W.	Wells, Thos. C.
Cummins, Frank E.	McMillan, Duncan.	Wilson, Thos. H.
	Yull, Robt. W.	

KASLO LODGE, No. 25.—(Continued).

DEMITTED.

McKiligan, J. Block.	Procunier, C. Ault.	Hawke, J. H.
Ferguson, John B.	McGregor, D. C.	Grimmett, M. L.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Parkinson, George

SUSPENDED.

Ross, Hugh.

CUMBERLAND LODGE, No. 26.

UNION, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Friday of each and every month.

OFFICERS.

Lewis Mounce..Worshipful Master	A. Grant, P. M..Dir. of Ceremonies
Wm. Mitchell.....Senior Warden	P. Dunne.....Senior Deacon
Thos. Irwin.....Junior Warden	John Baird.....Junior Deacon
Jas. Abrams, P. M.....Treasurer	John Robertson .....Steward
L. P. Eckstein.....Secretary	J. B. Giddings.....Inner Guard
Chas. H. Tarbell, P. M.....Tyler	

PAST MASTERS.

Jas. Abrams (supra).	Alex. Grant (supra).	John Rogers.
Geo. W. Clinton.	Rev. J. A. Logan.	Kendrick Sharp.
W. B. Ferguson.	Alex. Lindsay.	Chas. H. Tarbell (supra).
	John Williams.	

MASTER MASONS.

R. P. Edwards.	Nell McFadyen.	Jonah Sargent.
Robt. Cessford.	James Reid.	John Thomson.
R. Lawrence, M. D.	C. S. Ryder, Jr.	Chas. Van Houten.
Henry McGregor.	D. Stevenson.	

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

John Westwood, L. R. C. P.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

John Marocchi.

MASTER MASONS DECEASED.

Alfred Walker.

SUSPENDED.

Matthew Mitchell.

CORINTHIAN LODGE, No. 27.

ROSSLAND, B. C.

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Dunn, Wm. N..	Worshipful Master	Raymer, Frank.	Dir. of Ceremonies
Hering, Geo.....	Senior Warden	Killam, Geo. R.....	Senior Deacon
Clute, John S., Jr..	Junior Warden	French, Frank.....	Junior Deacon
Kirkup, John.....	Treasurer	Kerr, Donald E.....	Steward
Wood, Wm. M.....	Secretary	McQueen, Wm.	Steward
Brislow, Frank, P. M.....	Chaplain	Hunter, Robt.	Tyler

PAST MASTERS.

Balderson, George.	Goodeve, A. S.	Reddick, Robt.
Goodeve, W. H.	Raymer, H. J.	Taylor, Geo. N.

MASTER MASONS.

Algiers, F. S.	Gibson, Wm.	McKaller, Daniel.
Allen, Alex.	Ganthur, Frank X.	McKenzie, Norman.
Anderson, A. E.	Harris, Wm. J.	McLean, Henry T.
Anderson, Jas. M.	Hutchins, Rich. H.	Oliver, Wm. T.
Ashwell, George H. W.	Jameson, J. W.	McIntosh, Henry.
Barnes, James.	Lillygram, E. W.	Parker, J. L.
Benn, Jay.	Kelly, Edward J.	Paintin, Ovid E.
Biglow, Jesse A.	Kenning, August W.	Rammelmeyer, Ernest.
Blue, Louis.	Kenty, Isaac B.	Richardson, Geo. W.
Carver, Seneca.	Manchester, A. B.	Saunders, Edward D.
Coombs, Lee.	May, John F.	Smith, Archer W.
Coulthart, W. S.	Monyahan, John J.	Sullivan, Michael.
Dreyfous, Emile.	Morand, Theodore.	Sutherland, Wm.
Dunlop, John.	Moore, John W.	Taylor, Allen P.
Edgren, John.	Morris, David.	Thomas, Isaac N.
Erickman, George.	McCraney, H. P.	Tregear, Nicholas T.
Fisher, J. C.	McDonald, B. R.	Wallace, H. S.
Forrester, Allen.	McDonald, Robt. C.	Williams, Jas. D. S.
Fraser, George L.	McKay, Geo. C.	Woodward, J. D.

DEMITTED.

Forin, John A.	Hodge, Geo. C.	Ragless, Wm.
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FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Hoyes, W. T.	Karke, Fred.	McNeill, Albert Howard
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ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Baldwin, C. A.	Pratt, Wm.	Thompson, Ross.
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ALTA LODGE, U. D.**SANDON. B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS.

J. M. Bernard..Worshipful Master	C. M. Wilson.....Senior Deacon
M. L. Grimmett....Senior Warden	J. E. Wood.....Junior Deacon
Alex. M. Millan....Junior Warden	J. H. Hawke.....Steward
Alex. Crawford .....Treasurer.	E. F. McQueen.....Steward
W. H. Lilly.....Secretary	S. A. Mighton.....Inner Guard
G. W. Grimmett.....Chaplain	J. E. Jones .....Tyler

PAST MASTER.

Hamilton, Byers.

MASTER MASONS.

Hiskey, P. J.	Dockstader, John.	Moore, J. T.
Lowes, G. F.	Grimmett, G. W.	McArthur, A. C.
McTaggart, Robert.	Grimmett, M. L.	McMillan, Alex.
Beck, A.	Hawke, G. A.	McQueen, E. T.
Bernard, J. M.	Hickey, P. F.	McTaggart.
Brown, Thos.	Hunter, C. D.	Pitts, H. H.
Cameron, E. A.	Jones, J. E.	Sandellnds, E. M.
Cleland, J. A.	Lilly, W. H. L.	Sewell, F. C.
Crawford, Alex.	Lowes, G. F.	Wilson, C. M.
Cunning, R.	Migheon, S. A.	J. E. Wood.
Dockstader, A. B.	Milne, Thos.	Byers, Hamilton (hon. member).

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Hill, Ben B.

Faraday, J. L.

ENTERED APPRENTICE MASONS.

Atherton, E. R.

Doolan, L.

Street, J. J.

Walton, B. M.

NORTH STAR LODGE, U. D.**FORT STEELE, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Wm. Roderick Ross...Wor. Master	Arthur W. Bleasdel.....Secretary
Chas. Ault. Procunier..Sr. Warden	Robt. George Shier..Senior Deacon
Henry H. McVittie....Jr. Warden	Arthur Downey .....Steward
Arthur W. Bleasdel.....Treasurer	John B. Goff.....Inner Guard
Edmund A. Elton.....Acting Tyler	

MASTER MASONS.

Ross, W. R.	Downey, Arthur.	Heachmer, H. W.
Procunier, C. A.	Beattie, R. E.	Grassick, J.
McVittie, H. H.	King, J. H.	Goff, J. R.
Shier, R. G.	Scott, G. H.	Elton, E. A.
Bleasdel, A. W.	Mather, R. D.	Gres, Albert.
Galbraith, R. L. T.	Watt, Hugh.	N. McL. Curran.

FELLOW CRAFT MASONS.

Armstrong, J. F.	McBride, J. D.	McBride, F. A.
	Santo, W. S.	

GREENWOOD LODGE, U. D.**GREENWOOD, B. C.**

Regular Meetings are held on the First Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS.

Galloway, C. Scott....Wor. Master	Haas, J. C.....Secretary
Black, Alfred S.....Senior Warden	Palmer, William D..Senior Deacon
MacFarlane, J. H...Junior Warden	Birnie, James T.....Junior Deacon
Wood, Robert .....Treasurer	Seymour, Geo. E.....Tyler

MASTER MASONS.

Butler, Thos. A.	Leonard, Walter L.	Foster, Geo. May.
Stephens, Jas. M.	Stuart, Randolph G. K.	Nicholson, Ernest.

Secretary
Deacon
Steward
Guard

IN MEMORIAM

BENJAMIN SPRINGER

PAST MASTER

-OF-

MOUNT HERMON LODGE, No. 7, B. C. R.

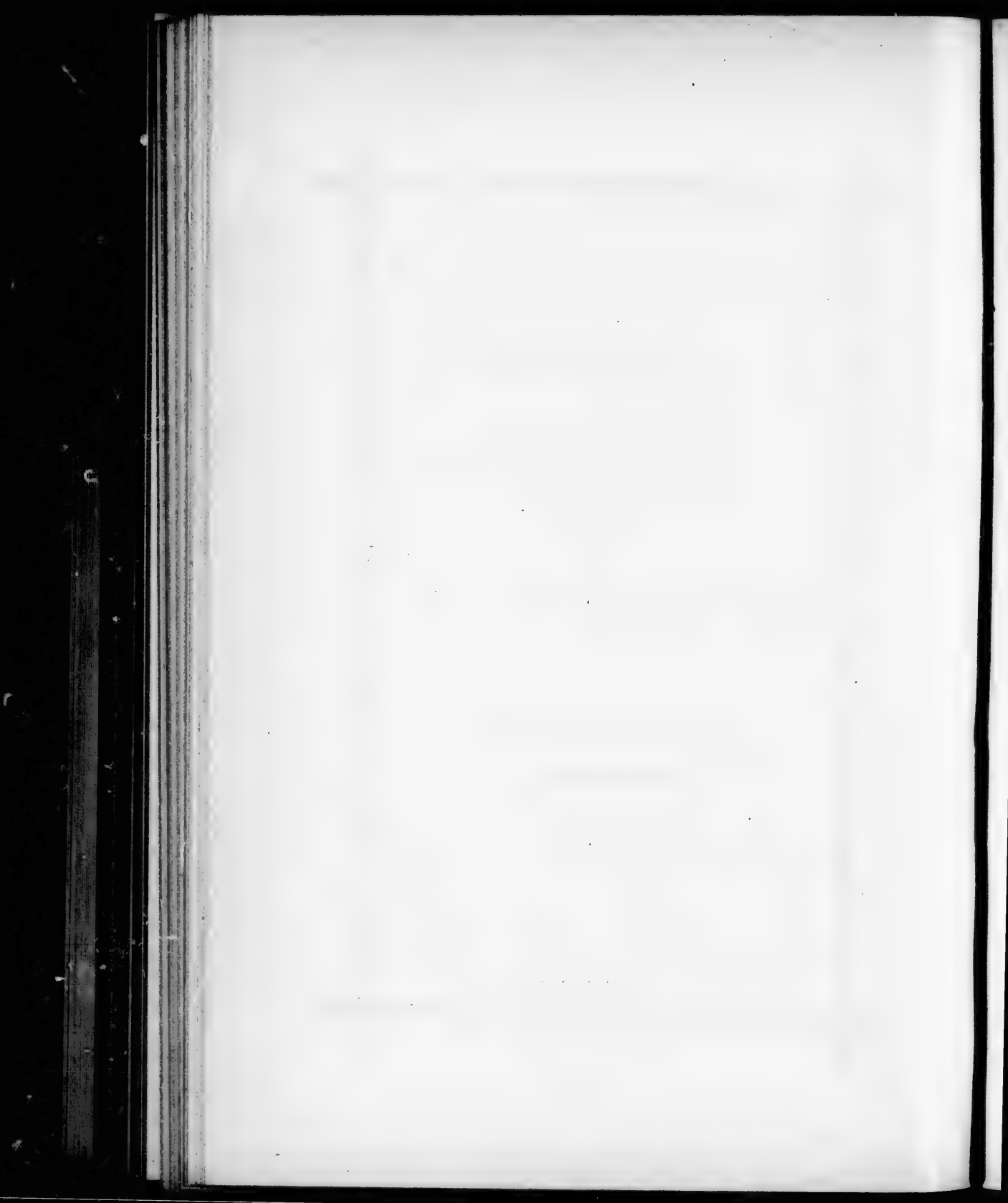
A. G. M. SPRAGG

PAST MASTER

-OF-

MOUNTAIN LODGE, No. 11, B. C. R.

Secretary
Deacon
Deacon
...Tyler



IN MEMORIAM

The Fraternal Dead

-OF-

SISTER JURISDICTIONS



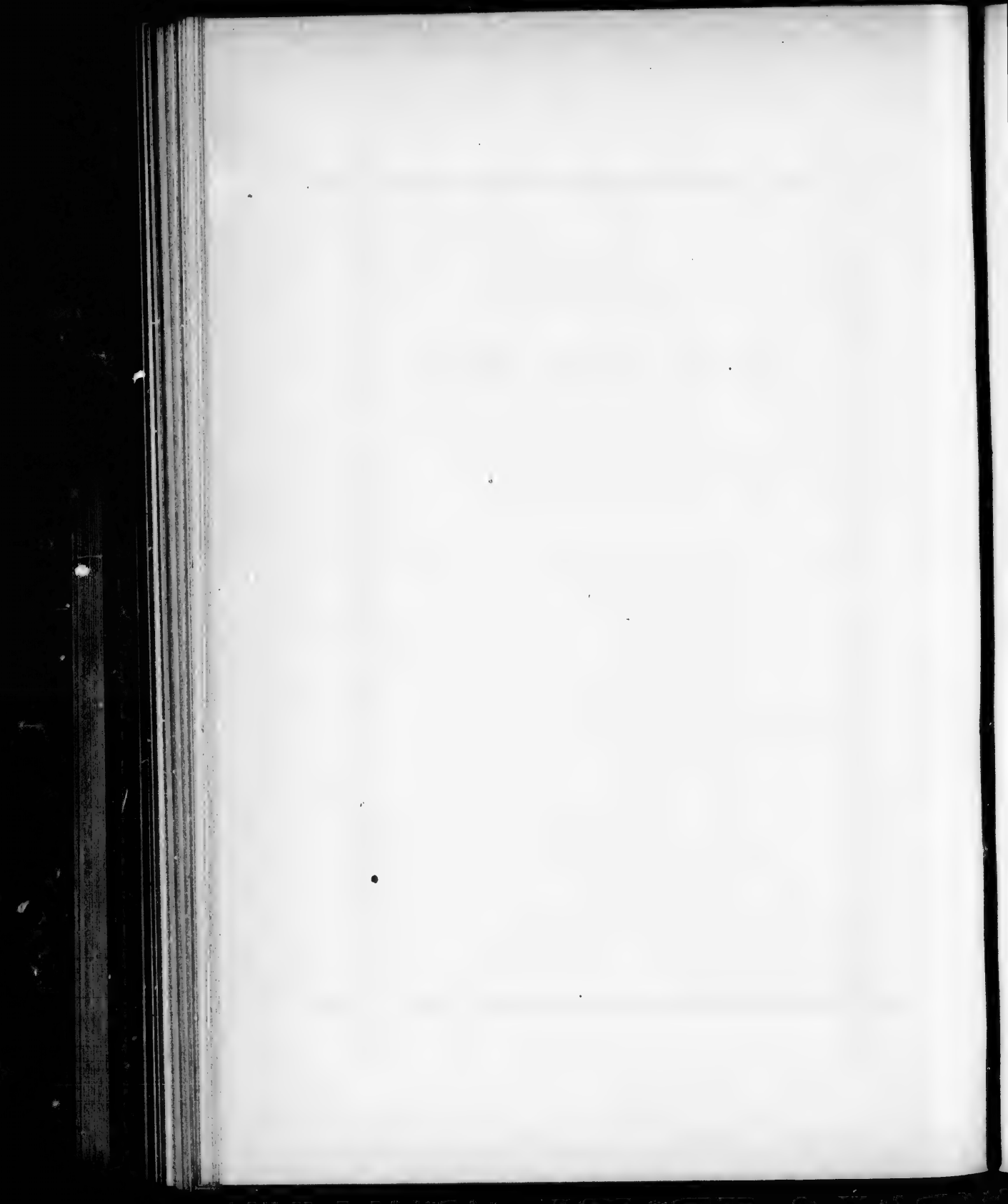
IN MEMORIAM

The Fraternal Dead

-OF-
THIS JURISDICTION

MASTER MASONS

**DANIEL SHEEHAN
DAVID DAVIES
DAVID THOMAS
R. F. BYERS
LEWIS J. LEWIS
CHAS. J. PAULSON
PETER EGAN
JOHN BRUCE
WM. G. NEILSON
HENRY A. BROCKLESBY
JAMES LITTLE
F. A. FORD
H. C. TESCHNOR
D. W. EBERTS, M.D.
JAS. A. McKENZIE
ROBERT FISHER
WM. G. SPENCER
FRANK BRENDT
ALFRED WALKER**



APPENDIX No. 2.

REPORT —ON— FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE 1899

New Westminster, B. C.,
June 21st, 1899.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

Your committee present herewith their Annual Report on Foreign Correspondence, having reviewed to the best of their ability such proceedings as have come before them. They regret that the list is not complete, but having waited until the last minute, are reluctantly obliged to send the Report to the printer as it is. The proceedings reviewed are:

Alabama	1898	New Hampshire.. . . .	
Arizona.. . . .	1898	New Mexico.. . . .	1898
Arkansas.. . . .	1898	New South Wales.. . . .	1897
California.. . . .	1898	New York.. . . .	1898
Canada.. . . .	1898	New Zealand.. . . .	1898
Colorado.. . . .	1898	North Carolina.. . . .	1899
Connecticut.. . . .	1899	North Dakota.. . . .	1898
Delaware.. . . .	1898	Nova Scotia.. . . .	1898
District of Columbia.. . . .	1898	Ohio.. . . .	1898
England.. . . .	1898	Oregon.. . . .	1898
Florida.. . . .	1899	Pennsylvania.. . . .	1898
Georgia	1898	Prince Edward Island.. . . .	1898
Idaho.. . . .	1898	Quebec.. . . .	1898
Illinois.. . . .	1898	Rhode Island.. . . .	1897
Indiana.. . . .	1898	Rhode Island.. . . .	1898
Iowa.. . . .	1898	Scotland.. . . .	1898
Kansas.. . . .	1899	South Australia.. . . .	1898
Kentucky.. . . .	1898	South Carolina.. . . .	1898
Louisiana.. . . .	1899	South Dakota.. . . .	1898
Maine.. . . .	1898	Tennessee.. . . .	1899
Manitoba.. . . .	1898	Texas.. . . .	1898
Massachusetts.. . . .	1898	Utah.. . . .	1899
Michigan.. . . .	1899	Vermont.. . . .	1898
Minnesota.. . . .	1899	Victoria.. . . .	1898
Missouri.. . . .	1898	Washington.. . . .	1898
Montana.. . . .	1898	West Virginia.. . . .	1898
Nebraska.. . . .	1898	Wisconsin.. . . .	1898
Nevada.. . . .	1898	Wyoming.. . . .	1898
New Brunswick.. . . .	1898		

ALABAMA, 1898.

A Special Communication of this Grand Lodge was held on the 13th of September, 1898, the object being the funeral services of the late M. W. Bro. Henry Clay Tompkins.

The Seventy-eighth Annual Communication was held in the City of Montgomery, commencing on the 6th of December, 1898.

British Columbia was represented by Brother William S. Foster.

The Grand Master, M. W. J. A. Bilbro, in a short address, indulges in a little retrospective, and recognises the fact that the earlier leaders in the Craft "though dead, yet speak." He does not forget that those still living, many of them Brethren whose names are unknown outside their own Lodges, are daily going about on errands of charity. The Brethren are paying greater heed to the teachings of the Institution, and he hopes to see this improvement extend to every Lodge in the Jurisdiction.

His information concerning the Grand Lodge of Peru being unofficial, he waited for some authentic news before dealing with the matter, and is glad to know that the error of the late Grand Master has been rectified.

The honored brethren who passed away during the year are suitably remembered. We regret to notice in the list the name of M. W. Brother Palmer J. Pillans, for many years the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

The Grand Master congratulates the Grand Lodge upon the fact that at last they meet in their own Hall; he granted several dispensations to confer degrees "out of time;" three were issued for the formation of new Lodges, and many others for different reasons.

He records the following decisions, amongst others:

"1. The Grand Master has no power to issue a dispensation to confer the degrees in Masonry on one who is ineligible because of the loss of his right hand.

"2. One whose left knee is stiff at an angle of 160 degrees is, for that reason, disqualified for the degrees in Masonry.

"10. It is not improper for a member of a lodge to loan an applicant for the degrees in Masonry money to pay the fees there-fore."

Not "improper," perhaps, but we should say inju-
dicious.

"11. The action of a Subordinate Lodge in excusing a member for being drunk should be noted on the minutes of the Lodge.

"12. A Mason cannot be a member of more than one Masonic Lodge.

In Alabama, we presume the Grand Master means.

"17. One who has been suspended for unmasonic conduct and subsequently restored to the rights and privileges of Masonry, but not to membership in the Lodge, is not entitled to a Masonic burial."

Why not? What are the "rights and privileges of Masonry" if the right to a Masonic funeral is not among them?

The Masonic Home does not seem to have made much progress, \$66.60 only having been contributed towards it during the year.

The Grand Master has found that in some of the Lodges private piques and quarrels are indulged in. Some Lodges, again, are indifferent to the evils of intoxication and profanity, which show themselves, in some instances, in those who have been elected to rule the Lodge. He thinks that a small, active membership is better than a large, indifferent one, and suggests the weeding out of those who do not attend Lodge meetings. He is also a firm believer in the advantages to be derived from "Masonic Conferences."

He concludes his address with a number of recom-
mendations which, if adopted, would no doubt be for the benefit of the Craft, and urges the Brethren to be constant in the practice of every commendable virtue.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence submit a special report dealing with the recognition of "Negro Masonry" by the Grand Lodge of Washington, and recom-

mend the discontinuance of fraternal relations with that Grand Lodge, which report and resolution were adopted.

During the session the new Temple was dedicated by the Grand Master, and in commemoration of the event, a badge prepared for the occasion was presented to each member of Grand Lodge.

The thanks of Grand Lodge were presented to the retiring Grand Master for his zeal in the discharge of his duties, and a committee was appointed to procure a testimonial, which, in a tangible form, would be a reminder of the appreciation of his Brethren.

As noted last year, the Committee on Jurisprudence was given until this session to report on the decisions of the Grand Master. They approve of all of them except Nos. 10, 16, 25 and 50. No. 10 decided that a Lodge had the right to legislate against liquor sellers which, the committee say, is not warranted by the Constitution. The Grand Lodge, however, refused to concur in the report of the committee. No. 16 ruled that a Lodge could not let part of its property as a Hall for dancing if any member of the Lodge objected. To this the committee say that if one member of the Lodge objected to the use of the room for dancing, another might object to its use for some other purpose, with the result that it might thus be kept idle. They think that the matter should be left to the discretion of the Lodge. With this report the Grand Lodge agreed. We find no reference to the decisions reported this year, so presume that they have been held over for consideration.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is prepared by Brother William T. or William Y. Titcomb, we are not sure which, as his name is given one way at the commencement, and the other way at the end of the report. Anyway, we offer Brother Titcomb the "glad hand," and congratulate him on his first effort. He submits an excellent digest of the doings of sister Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1897, which is accorded a most fraternal notice.

We copy the following from Brother Titcomb's review of Illinois, as showing the reason—or a reason—for the action of some Grand Lodges re Negro Masonry.

"With the subject of 'Negro Masonry' Brother Robbins deals at length, making an argument in support of a special committee to the Grand Lodge of Washington, said report favoring the recognition of Negro Masonry, and adopted by said Grand Lodge at its annual session of 1898.

"We do not essay a discussion of this topic, but merely remark that, with our Northern Brethren, the question is more theoretical than practical; with us here at the South, it is more practical than theoretical. Masonry is essentially a social institution. Before the law of the land we recognize the Negro as our equal in respect of civil and political rights, but we do not, cannot, and will not accord to him the privileges of companionship on terms of *social equality*. Nor would he seek this, but for the dark practices of mischief-making white men."

That is, the negro is the white man's equal, and again, he is not. Oh, shades of the writers of the Declaration of Independence !

The Lodges on the roll number 376 ; members, 11,345.

M. W. B. DUDLEY WILLIAMS,
Grand Master.
R. W. H. CLAY ARMSTRONG,
Grand Secretary.

ARIZONA, 1898.

The Seventeenth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Arizona was held in the town of Globe, commencing on the 15th of November, 1898.

In order to give the Brethren time to cool down, the Grand Master altered the date of the Communication from the 8th to the 15th of November, the general elections in the Territory taking place on the former day.

In his address, the Grand Master refers feelingly to the Brethren who died during the year ; states that with the exception of the Grand Lodge of Peru their foreign relations remain harmonious ; submits the Washington Memorial plan, and refers to the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington *re* Negro Masonry without, however, making any recommendation in the matter.

Within the Jurisdiction, peace and prosperity appear to be the rule, and the Grand Master was called on to make

few decisions. The first of these show a state of affairs so different from the usual practice that we quote it at length.

"It seems that at a stated meeting of 'Coronado' Lodge, on October 9th, 1897, Bro. Abraham applied for a dimit. The dimit was granted without a recommendatory certificate. Bro. Abraham, in his complaint, stated that he did not want to sever his connection with the Order, and refused to accept the dimit, and asked that the Lodge be required to give him a dimit with a recommendatory certificate.

"On investigation, I found that when the Lodge took action in the matter, a member made a motion that a recommendatory certificate be not given with the dimit. A dimit without a recommendatory certificate in this Jurisdiction virtually terminates the fraternal relation of the recipient with the Order in so far as that his application for membership will not be accepted by a Lodge in this Jurisdiction.

"I fail to see the justice of a lodge placing a member in such a position against his will, nor do I think a lodge has a right to do so except by proper trial and conviction of Masonic offence.

"No. 1. My decision was: That while it was optional with the lodge as to whether or not it would grant a recommendatory certificate with a dimit, it is equally optional with the member applying for a dimit whether or not he will accept a dimit without a recommendatory certificate. If the Brother refuses to accept such a dimit, the action of the Lodge is without force and the Brother remains a member of the Lodge."

In their report upon this decision the Committee on Jurisprudence say:

"The Constitution of this Grand Lodge, in Section 122 provides for a certificate of withdrawal and prescribes the form of such certificate. The Constitution further provides that no recommendatory certificate shall be given except by a majority vote of the Lodge. The decision of the Grand Master, if sustained, would virtually take away this right of the Lodge, and to compel it to give a recommendatory certificate to every Brother asking to withdraw. A member may make himself so obnoxious to his Brethren that they would willingly have him out of the Lodge, and yet they could not charge him with unmasonic conduct. A Brother whose conduct or behavior is such that a majority of his Brethren will not recommend him to any other Lodge, is certainly not entitled to relief at the hands of the Grand Lodge.

"The decisions of the Grand Lodge of California are somewhat conflicting. While the ruling of the Grand Master seems to be sustained in one instance, your committee is of the opinion that the true intent of the law is to be found in the following decision, Section 396 of Anderson's Digest, taken from Vol. XIII., page 181:

"The very moment that a member makes payment of his dues and notifies his Lodge that he withdraws, he ceases to be a member.

Whether a Lodge will recommend him by certificate to the Fraternity as a worthy Brother, is a matter for the Lodge to determine, and when membership has been severed it can be restored only by petition and election in the way provided for affiliation.

"The fact that a certificate of withdrawal without recommendation will not entitle the holder to apply for affiliation to any Lodge, is not such a hardship as may at first appear, because a Brother who has earned the ill-will of the majority of the members of his own Lodge, is certainly not a desirable member for any other Lodge. Your Committee therefore beg to offer the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the decision of the Grand Master 'that it is optional with a member to accept or reject a certificate of withdrawal when the Lodge refuses to grant a recommendatory certificate,' be not approved."

The report of the Committee was adopted, from which it would appear that a Brother with a dimit which lacks the "recommendatory certificate" is in no better position (so far as the Jurisdiction of Arizona is concerned) than a suspended or expelled Mason.

The Grand Master suggests that in order to avoid further conflict with the election, the date of meeting be changed, and that for the convenience of the Brethren the place of meeting be fixed at some central point. In this connection he points out that the entertainment of Grand Lodges is a serious burden to some of the Lodges who try, in this respect, to emulate their more wealthy neighbors.

The Grand Lodge took action on the Grand Master's suggestions to the extent of fixing a place of meeting, which for the future will be Tuscon.

The reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary show a healthy condition of affairs, financially and otherwise. The balance in the Treasury amounts to \$1,891.97, besides \$6,000.00 invested in bonds of the Territory.

A very interesting oration was delivered by Brother Charles D. Belden, the subject being "Freemasonry—The Divine Plan of Life."

The Grand Lodge decided to participate in the Washington Memorial Observances, and resolved not to take any action at present with reference to Negro Masonry.

There is no report on Foreign Correspondence.

Number of Lodges, 14 ; of members, 701, a gain during the year of 84.

M. W. ANTHONY A. JOHNS,
Grand Master.

M. W. GEO. J. ROSKRUGE,
Grand Secretary.

ARKANSAS, 1898.

This Grand Lodge met in its Fifty-ninth Annual Communication in the City of Little Rock, on the 15th of November, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Brother J. B. Baker, congratulates the Brethren that notwithstanding the business depression, Masonry has been prosperous during the year. He granted a few dispensations to confer degrees in less than the regular time, and after issuing six dispensations for the formation of new Lodges, makes this singular statement:

"My Brethren, while I have granted these dispensations for the formation of six new Lodges, I am loth to believe that it is for the best interests of Masonry."

We should have thought that if the Grand Master felt that way about it, he would have withheld the dispensations.

He issued an edict against the Grand Lodge of Peru, and withdrew it when that body returned to the fold ; laid a number of corner stones by proxy, and made several decisions. We copy those that appear of interest:

"1. Q. Can a Brother who dimitted from his Lodge two years ago and moved to the Indian Territory, but is now attending college in St. Louis, Mo., be received by affiliation on a dimit as a member of a Lodge in Arkansas?

"A. No. A Brother must have a residence in the State and within the jurisdiction of the Lodge before he can be received as a member.

"2. Q. Arkadelphian Lodge granted a Brother a dimit. Upon investigation the Secretary found the Brother in arrears for dues, and the Brother refused to pay for same. At the next meeting of the

Lodge, the Lodge donated the dues to said Brother without his request, and presented him a dimit. Did we do right?

"A. No. The Lodge exceeded its authority in granting the Brother a dimit until he was clear of all charges against him for dues, and the Lodge had no authority to donate his dues unless he should ask for the same and for a good cause. The action of the Lodge is, therefore, void, and the Brother is still a member of your Lodge, but he is entitled to a dimit under the first action of the Lodge by paying his dues.

"11. Q. Has a Lodge the right to rent its lower rooms for a pool or billiard hall?

"A. No. While a Lodge has the right to rent its spare rooms, yet it is contrary to the tenets of Masonry to rent them for immoral or intemperate uses.

"17. Q. Has a Mason the right to visit or assist in the work of a so-called Negro Masonic Lodge?

"A. No; and if a member of the Masonic Order so far forgets his obligation as to visit a Negro Lodge or any other so-called Masonic Lodge that is not recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State of Arkansas, he should be severely disciplined.

"21. Q. To what extent can a member drink intoxicating liquors and not be a drunkard?

"A. I know of no law making it a crime for Masons to drink intoxicating liquors, therefore every Lodge must be its own judge as to the intemperance of its own members."

The Committee on Masonic Law and Usage, to whom the Grand Master's decisions were referred, disapproved of Nos. 1 and 2, and so far we agree with the Committee. It is a well recognized principle of Masonic Jurisprudence that a member holding a dimit can apply for membership to the Lodge of his choice, wherever it may be, and it is generally admitted that a Lodge can do what it likes with its own money, so if it wishes to remit the dues owed by any Brother, we see nothing to prevent it. The Committee signified their approval of the other decisions we have copied, and the Grand Lodge concurred in their report. No. 11 is another example of the length to which some Grand Lodges go in the matter of prohibitive legislation. Since when have pool or billiards been considered "immoral or intemperate?" No. 21 seems to us anything but consistent. If it is a Masonic offence to deal in intoxicating liquors it surely ought to be as much of an offence to use them. In view of an occurrence to which we shall allude later on, we would suggest that the passage of a law mak-

ing the use of intoxicating liquors a Masonic crime in Arkansas is in order.

The Grand Lodge received and accepted numerous invitations to visit different State institutions; two scholarships in Ouachita College were presented to Grand Lodge, and a donation was made to Brother George A. Dannelly who, by reason of infirmity, was unable to be present.

The report of the Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother Fay Hempstead, is a complete statement of the affairs of his office. It is satisfactory to learn from him that the Temple debt is being gradually extinguished. During the year \$3,297.86 were paid on account of the principle of the debt, leaving \$1,000 still due on the second mortgage. This amount Brother Hempstead expects to see wiped out during the current year, and it is also thought that something will be paid on account of the first mortgage. In order to still further reduce expenses, the Grand Lodge decided to meet biennially for the next six years, and to discontinue the publication of a Report on Foreign Correspondence. Both of these methods we consider decidedly unfortunate. We do not believe that the best interests of the Craft will be served by holding biennial sessions, and we are sure that the Brethren in Arkansas will lose more than they gain by the omission of Brother Davidson's admirable Reports on Foreign Correspondence. It is not our place to offer advice, but in view of the fact that the outlay for mileage and *per diem* exceeds all the other expenses of Grand Lodge put together, we should have thought that the direction in which economy could be practised was sufficiently obvious.

Besides their usual report, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence submit a lengthy special report dealing with the recognition of Negro Masonry by the Grand Lodge of Washington. The report is too long for reproduction, but the findings of the committee are adverse to the recognition of the colored Brethren, and they recommend that recognition of the Grand Lodge of Washington be withdrawn. The report and its recommendation were adopted by the Grand Lodge.

A very excellent oration by Brother Edgar E. Bryant, deals with the "Origin of Masonry." He states that the first evidences of Masonry are to be found in Roman history, while from Rome it spread into Gaul and Britain. Although the Grand Orator evidently starts Masonry with the building of the Temple, the connection between the operative guilds and the Free Masonry which began with the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 is not very clear, and we have not space in which to reproduce Brother Bryant's arguments. The whole paper is a most interesting history of the subject, and is worth reading by every Masonic student.

On the second day of the session, a Past Grand Master stated that certain delegates had misbehaved themselves, and asked for a committee to investigate the matter and report. The committee found that

"Brother _____ of _____ Lodge appeared in the Grand Lodge room beastly drunk, and now lies in the hall adjoining the Grand Lodge room so drunk that he does not know where he is or who he is.

"We also find that on last evening Brother _____ of _____ Lodge appeared in the Grand Lodge Room so drunk that he could not walk straight."

Upon motion it was ordered that the Lodges to which these Brethren belong be instructed to discipline them—a matter which, we think, might very properly have been attended to by the Grand Lodge itself.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is, this year, once more from the pen of that able Masonic writer, Bro. Sam. H. Davidson. In the introduction to his report he says:

"A survey of the Masonic field shows the Institution to be fairly prosperous, and the Grand Lodges, with one or two exceptions, living up to the ancient landmarks and principles of Freemasonry. The most sensational event of the year was the recognition of 'Negro Masonry' by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington, a matter of sufficient significance to call for a special report from this committee, which we have presented at this Annual Communication."

Brother Davidson is opposed to cipher rituals; thinks that it is rather commendable than otherwise to drape the Masonic altar with the American flag; favors a strict

adherence to the "perfect youth" doctrine, and quotes with approval (and by the way, is the only writer we remember who does approve), the decision of the Grand Master of Manitoba that if a Brother sitting in a Lodge objects to the admission of a Brother seeking admission, the objector should, unless required to carry on the work of the Lodge, be requested to withdraw.

Alluding to the reference of the Grand Master of Manitoba to the recent Jubilee, Brother Davidson says:

"The British are indeed to be congratulated, and the fact that British subjects are not the happiest people in the world is not the fault of 'Victoria, Queen of England and Empress of India.' The fault is entirely with their governmental system, and this cannot be so very faulty when we come to consider that this government was intended to be as near a model of Great Britain as the freedom of our forefathers would admit."

Right here is where Brother Davidson slips a cog, so to speak. There are no happier people on the face of the globe to-day than the people who are proud to own allegiance to Her Most Gracious Majesty, and there is no freer government to-day anywhere than that of Great Britain and her colonies.

We have by no means exhausted the points of interest to be found in this able and withal witty report of Brother Davidson, but want of space will not allow us to "stay with it" any longer. We can only hope that when the Grand Lodge of Arkansas meets again, it will feel financially able to let Brother Davidson loose again.

The number of Lodges chartered and under dispensation is 448. The membership numbers 12,522.

M. W. ROBERT M. SMITH,
Grand Master.

R. W. FAY HEMPSTEAD,
Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA, 1898.

The Forty-ninth Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge began in the City of San Francisco on the 11th of October, 1898.

The Address of the Grand Master, M. W. Thos. Flint, Jr., while not a lengthy document, is an eminently practical one. He pays a deserved tribute to the memory of several Brethren who passed away during the year—among whom were Brother Jas. Oglesby, late Grand Tyler; Brother Geo. Hinds, Past Junior Grand Warden; Brother Francis Ellsworth Baker, Past Grand Orator, and Brother Geo. Lord, who, the Grand Master says, was the oldest Mason in the Jurisdiction, if not in the United States, having been raised in 1828.

The decisions reported are not many, but we note the following:—

"A person elected to receive the degrees may, at the request of the Lodge in which he was elected, receive the three degrees in another Lodge.

"Charges may be withdrawn previous to the commencement of a trial, but not afterwards.

"When a Brother has received certain sums of money as charity from his Lodge, the money thus given him cannot be charged to his account as dues or as money due from him to the Lodge."

The question was asked:

"Can an Italian gentleman, speaking neither French nor English, receive the three degrees of Masonry in a Lodge working in the French language, by the medium of an interpreter or dragoman?"

To which the Grand Master replied that he could not.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom the decisions of the Grand Master were referred, agree with most of them. They are of opinion, however, that it is unconstitutional for a Lodge to prescribe the manner in which a Brother in arrears may claim the indulgence of the Lodge, and state that while propriety might suggest that a Brother refrain from voting on his own application for permission to form a new Lodge, there is no law or regulation which prevents him from so doing. The Committee heartily commend the Grand Master for his stand in relation to "Army Lodges," and we add our approval (for what it may be worth), to theirs.

Dispensations for various things to the number of thirty were issued by the Grand Master. Among them we

regret to note five to act on petitions without reference to a committee; fourteen to rebalot on rejected applications for the degrees, and three to act on petitions without the qualification of residence, but as all were, according to the Committee on Jurisprudence, in accordance with the law of California, we have nothing more to say.

His official visits were not so numerous as he intended them to be, but those that were made convinced him of "the general excellence of the work."

He authorized the holding of a Masonic Fair, the proceeds of which were to be devoted to the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, and which was evidently a great success. The Home has been completed, and was dedicated on the second day of the session.

The Grand Master thinks that on account of the relative proximity of the Hawaiian Islands, the Lodges in that—shall we say State, Territory, or Colony?—should affiliate with the Grand Lodge of California. Why not form an independent Grand Lodge?

The Grand Secretary, Brother Geo. Johnson, again presents one of his admirable reports. He gives the number of Lodges in the State as 265, with a membership of 19,542, which represents a gain of 374 during the year. He transcribed a letter received from Hawaiian Lodge, No. 21, warning the Brethren that Hawaii is not an El Dorado, and that nearly every trade and profession in the Islands is already overcrowded.

All the Lodges in the Jurisdiction have made returns and all dues have been paid in full.

As is customary, the different Boards of Relief make report of their work to the Grand Lodge. The amount expended in charity during the year by the six Boards was \$16,639.48, and the amount received as refunds was \$4,530.51. Among the Brethren relieved we notice two from British Columbia. We regret to see that some Lodge in British Columbia has forgotten that the Sacramento Board, not so long ago, assisted one of its members to the extent of \$30.00.

The Grand Lecturer spent 120 days in visiting different Lodges and imparting instruction. He found an earnest desire to improve, and where a Lodge needed it, he "stayed with it" until they had the work learnt. A meeting of Inspectors was held in San Francisco, at which the floor work was taught, but the Grand Lecturer says that the only way to teach a man the wording of the ritual is to sit down with him and go over it until he has learnt it. Many of the Inspectors have the work perfectly, but two or three have refused to adopt the work as taught by the Grand Lecturer, and he concludes that in these cases there ought to be a change. He thinks, too, that the Grand Lecturer should devote his whole time to the work and be paid accordingly.

Acting upon the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, the Grand Lodge recognized the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico. The Committee rehearse a number of objections to the earlier recognition of this body which have now been overcome, and say:

"There is now but one Grand Masonic organization in the Republic of Mexico, namely, the 'Gran Dieta Symbolica,' which is composed of all the State Grand Lodges and the Subordinate Lodges of the Republic of Mexico, and that the latter Grand organization is 'the only existing regular symbolic Grand Body of Masons in the Republic of Mexico,' and is known as the Gran Dieta Symbolica."

How the *Gran Dieta* can be the *only* Grand Body when it is, as they say, composed of the State "Grand Lodges," we do not quite see.

On the second day of the session, the Grand Lodge proceeded to Decoto and dedicated the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home. The orator of the day was W. Brother Jacob Voorsanger, who, in his customary happy manner, gave an account of the history of the Home.

On the afternoon of the third day of the session the usual oration was delivered by W. Brother Edward Spalding, his subject, "The Teachings of Masonry," being handled in a masterly manner.

The Trustees of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home report the completion of the building at a total cost of \$123,550.00. The Home is turned over to the Grand Lodge free of debt, but it still needs to be furnished.

The report on Foreign Correspondence, by W. Brother William A. Davies, is an interesting resume of the doings of fifty-eight sister Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1897 and 1898. The ruling of Grand Master Charleson that "the loss of the thumb of the left hand does not render the applicant incapable of receiving and imparting the ritual of Masonry," is quoted without comment.

We appreciate Brother Davies' kind words concerning our attempts as a reviewer.

M. W. FRANK M. ANGELLOTTI,
Grand Master.

R. W. GEORGE JOHNSON,
Grand Secretary.

CANADA, 1898.

Five Especial Communications of the Grand Lodge of Canada were held during the year, four being for the purpose of laying corner stones and one for the purpose of dedicating the new Masonic Hall in the City of Ottawa.

The Forty-third Annual Communication was held in the City of Toronto, commencing on the 20th of July, 1898. M. W. Brother William Gibson, M. P., occupied the throne, British Columbia being represented by R. W. Brother John Creasor, Q. C.

The Grand Lodge having been opened in Ample form, a deputation from the Lodges of Toronto presented an address of welcome, which was suitably acknowledged. A feature of the session was a visit from the M. W. Grand Master of Michigan with his officers, and the presentation by him to the Grand Lodge of a gavel, the description of which is best given in the words of the eloquent Brother who made the presentation:

"Its head is made of Michigan oak; its handle was part of the boat hook belonging to the gig of Captain Sigsbee, of the U. S. S. Maine, and was last used by the Captain himself when his boat had brought him from his wrecked ship to the steamer City of Washington, in Havana Bay. He extended it to Mr. Sigismund Rothschild, of Detroit, Mich., who was on board the City of Washington, and who assisted him aboard that vessel. As a token of his appreciation

Captain Sigsbee presented the boathook to Mr. Rothschild, who kindly gave a portion of it to us.

"The head of the gavel is bound at either end with portions of the brass binding of the wrecked vessel. One band is appropriately engraved with the pine needles and cones of the Michigan forests, while, upon the other hand, are engraved the maple leaves of Canada. Upon one side of the head has been wrought in Michigan silver and copper the coat of arms of the Wolverine State. Upon the other side is a beautifully chased representation of the maple leaf and the cousin-german of the wolverine, the beaver, the symbol of your own Province.

"Upon the handle are the American and English flags joined, while upon the top is a silver band, upon which have been engraved these words: 'Presented by the officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan, U. S. A., to the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario, with fraternal greetings and best wishes, July 20th, A. D. 1898, A. L. 5898.'

The Grand Master mentions with pride the fact that during his term of office peace and prosperity have pervaded the Jurisdiction. The capital account of the Grand Lodge now stands at \$95,583.70. The amount expended in charity (including a grant of \$2,000 to the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto) was \$10,775.00.

Numerous official visits were made by the Grand Master, his experience on each of these occasions being most pleasing. The labors of M. W. Brother Henry Robertson, as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, receive the praise they so justly deserve. The Grand Master pays a fraternal tribute to the memory of three eminent members of the Craft in that Jurisdiction, viz., M. W. Daniel Spry, Past Grand Master, and R. W. Brothers Geo. C. Davis and Geo. Inglis, Past Grand Junior Wardens.

The reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary are excellent businesslike documents. That of the Grand Treasurer shows a substantial increase in the amount of the balance at the bank.

The reports of the eighteen District Deputy Grand Masters are, as usual, models for District Deputy Grand Masters elsewhere. Nearly all have visited every Lodge under their charge at least once during their term of office. With few exceptions they report the Lodges as being in a satisfactory condition, and the work well done. The

"arrears of dues" question troubles each of them, but only one ventures to suggest a remedy, which is, that the entrance fee be considerably raised, and the monthly dues entirely abolished. This proposal was made last year by, we think, the M. W. Grand Master of Nova Scotia, but we are not sure that it would prove a satisfactory plan upon which to conduct a Lodge. As is well known, the applications in some years and in some Lodges are numerous, while in others they are few. However, the subject is a large one, and the man who furnishes a *bona fide* remedy for the complaint will earn the everlasting gratitude of the Craft.

The Committee having in charge the matter of the establishment of a Home for Aged and Indigent Masons, report that circumstances do not, at the present time, seem to warrant the establishment of such a Home. The fund now available for this purpose is \$15,227.75.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, by M. W. Brother Henry Robertson, is quite the equal of any of its predecessors. The Proceedings of fifty-eight Grand Lodges receive attention at the hand of our distinguished Brother, including British Columbia for 1897.

Under Minnesota, Brother Robertson says: "He (the Grand Master of Minnesota) very correctly refused to grant a dispensation to confer degrees without fee on a minister, believing that if the degrees are worth anything to any person, they are worth paying for."

Brother Robertson defends the practice of the Grand Lodge of Canada in "calling off" to perform such Masonic labor as the laying of corner stones, and condemns public installations and other unnecessary displays.

The Lodges of this Jurisdiction number 361, with a membership of 23,996.

M. W. E. T. MALONE,
Grand Master.

R. W. J. J. MASON,
Grand Secretary.

COLORADO, 1898.

The Grand Lodge of Colorado began its Thirty-eighth Annual Communication in the City of Denver, on the 20th of September, 1898, eighty-nine of the chartered Lodges of the Jurisdiction being represented.

Brother John Humphries was present to represent British Columbia.

The Grand Master's Address is a document of some length—thirty-three pages. He acknowledges the goodness of God to them, individually, as a fraternity, and as a nation, and pays tribute to the worth of departed Brethren of his own and other Jurisdictions.

The condition of the Craft in Colorado is satisfactory, and relations with other Grand Lodges, with the exception of the Grand Lodge of Peru, have been harmonious.

Sixteen decisions are reported, of which we note the following:

"3. A blind man is not eligible to petition for the degrees in Masonry.

"4. A man who has lost the last three fingers and the first joint of the index finger of the left hand, is not eligible to be made a Mason.

"A Lodge should not admit any visitor without due examination except upon the voucher direct, or through another Brother, of a Brother who has sat in a Lodge with, or has properly examined him and knows him to be in good standing. The voucher of a Brother who may have met him in the Consistory, Commandery, Council or Chapter, and has no other knowledge of his standing in the Lodge, is not lawful information.

"12. It is not permissible for officers to wear their jewels of office and the members to wear their aprons at a public entertainment given by their Lodge.

"13. It would not appear to be proper for a Lodge to join in presenting a petition to the Senate of the United States, or to take part in National, State or Municipal affairs.

"14. It is necessary for a Lodge to ballot on every petition for initiation, no matter what the report of the committee may be. Applications of rejected candidates and the findings of the committee should not, under any circumstance, be surrendered to the applicant, such documents being the sole property of the Lodge.

"15 —————; hence the petition of a stockholder of a corporation engaged, either wholly or partially, in such prohibited business (the liquor business), cannot be entertained, nor can the petition of an employee of such corporation, provided he sells or handles liquors for his employers, be received. In the case of an employee of a corporation partially engaged in the traffic, who neither handles nor sells liquors for his employers, and agrees not to do so in the future, his petition may be accepted."

No. 15 seems to draw the line pretty close, even for a Jurisdiction which believes in prohibitory legislation. According to this ruling, a shareholder in a hotel company would be ineligible for membership, while an employee not engaged in dispensing liquors could be accepted.

The Grand Master properly refused to answer the following question: "Is it a violation of Masonic law for a Mason to be a candidate on a high license ticket in a town election?" believing that it was asked more for the purpose of politics than for the good of the Craft.

He transacted a large amount of business of interest to the Craft of the Jurisdiction only, and made numerous official visits.

The Grand Master received an appeal from the W. M. Grand Master of the "United Grand Lodge of Mexico," "requesting the fraternal assistance of all Grand Lodges, Orients and Supreme Bodies throughout the world, and particularly of the Grand Lodges of the United States of America, in connection with certain difficulties existing between itself and the Supreme Scottish Council of Mexico." This appears to be a new candidate for popular favor, and it doesn't seem to want much.

The reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary show the Grand Lodge to be in a healthy state financially. The latter officer has had the usual amount of trouble with delinquent Lodges.

The Grand Orator, R. W. Brother Leopold Frendenthal, delivered a learned and interesting address, continuing, he says, "from where the eloquent orator of last year stopped." The beauty of the oration would not be apparent in extracts, but we may say, *en passant*, that the R. W. Brother makes the claim "that the Grand Masonic word

was never lost, but is yet to be found in the sixteenth chapter of Leviticus."

Brother Greenleaf, the learned Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, again presents one of his able reports, reviewing, in his customary pleasing manner, the doings of fifty-eight sister Grand Lodges.

Brother Greenleaf expresses himself strongly upon the subject of legislation against non-affiliates, and rightly so. His arguments are, to our mind, unanswerable, and while we cannot quote them *in extenso*, we may notice that he instances the cases of Brethren who may, on account of unfair treatment, wish to quietly sever their connection with the Lodge, and of those who, being in unfortunate circumstances, wish to retire before being placed in the unpleasant position of having to admit their poverty. It is, no doubt, unfortunate that there are so many Masons who, perfectly able to contribute towards the support of the Institution, nevertheless lose interest in it and withdraw, but, as we are taught at the very threshold, Masonry is a voluntary institution. It urges no one to seek admission, nor should it place any obstacles in the way of a Brother who desires to terminate his connection with it.

British Columbia for 1897 and 1898 receives our Brother's courteous attention. V. W. Brother Logan's sermon on each of these occasions is highly commended, and the report of R. W. Brother F. McB. Young is said to be "worthy of careful consideration and reflection."

Brother Greenleaf is pleased to speak approvingly of our modest efforts as a reviewer. He says:

"In referring to the recommendation of the Grand Lecturer for the passage of a law requiring every Brother raised to the third degree to pass an examination in open Lodge within a specified time, he says:

" 'We would offer the Grand Lodge of Colorado the advice given by Punch to those about to get married—Dont.'

"His advice proved to be a boomerang, as his own Lodge went and 'did it,' as shown above."

Just so, Brother Greenleaf, but the amendment you quote was designed to modify a more stringent law already

on the books, and which had not been found to work well. We are much mistaken if a further change in the law is not effected before long.

M. W. HORACE T. DE LONG,
Grand Master.

R. W. ED. C. PARMELEE,
Grand Secretary.

CONNECTICUT, 1899.

Upon opening the volume of Proceedings of this Grand Lodge, we are greeted with a life-like portrait on steel of the retiring Past Grand Master, Frank W. Havens, while further on in the book we come to a picture of the Grand Secretary's office, with that genial officer seated at his desk.

An Emergent Communication was held at Broad Brook on the 26th of October, 1898, at which the Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Geo. G. McNall, presided, the object being the dedication of the new Lodge room of Oriental Lodge, No. 111.

A second Emergent Communication was held at Willimantic on the 3rd of November, 1898, the Deputy Grand Master again presiding. The occasion of this Communication was to participate in the centennial anniversary of Eastern Star Lodge, No. 44.

The One hundred and eleventh Annual Communication was held in the City of New Haven, commencing on the 18th of January, 1899, the Grand Master, M. W. Frank W. Havens, presiding. He opens his address by referring to the protecting care of the Almighty, and passes on to allude feelingly to the departed Brethren of his own and other Jurisdictions. He compliments the District Deputy Grand Masters upon the zeal manifested in their work, and briefly summarizes their reports, from which it is seen that Masonry is in a satisfactory condition within the State.

Numerous dispensations were granted; only one, we are glad to note, for the conferring of degrees out of time.

The decisions recorded number three, and are as follows:

"1. Can a Chaplain of a Lodge be granted a dimit, or must he wait until the expiration of his term of office?

"A. A dimit cannot be granted to a Chaplain or any officer under the By-laws during his term of office.

"2. A Master elect is installed by presenting him with the jewel of his office and seating him in the East. Is such an installation complete? Ans. It is one of the essentials of the installation of the Master elect of a Masonic Lodge that he should give his assent to the charges and regulations as a part of the Installation ceremony.

"May a Lodge refuse to grant a dimit to a Brother in good standing and otherwise entitled thereto, except upon the payment of a fee for the same? Ans. The payment of a fee for a dimit is a requirement not recognized by the Grand Lodge. If a Lodge had a right to require the payment of a fee, it would have the right to make that fee prohibitory, thus defeating the law of the Grand Lodge, which requires that he shall be entitled to a dimit if in good standing, not under charges, and clear on the books."

Having received information that the Grand Lodge of Peru had reconsidered its action in removing the Bible from its altars, the Grand Master revoked the Edict declaring non-intercourse with it. He comments briefly on the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and considers that they have "violated a fundamental principle of American Masonic Jurisprudence."

Many official visits were made, including several to the "Masonic Home," and one to the Grand Lodge of New York.

The Grand Master recommends an increase in the salary of the Grand Secretary, and thinks that the time has not yet come for the recognition of Mexican Masonry.

The Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Brother Geo. G. McNall, also submits a short account of his official acts during the year.

The Grand Secretary, M. W. Brother J. H. Barlow, presents a short but comprehensive report. He chronicles the growth of the Library, and states that satisfactory progress has been made with the "Grand Lodge Registry."

The Grand Master's suggestion as to the Grand Secretary's salary was referred to a special committee, who

recommended that it be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500, with which the Grand Lodge agreed. We should say the increase was well deserved.

The Grand Lodge endorsed the decisions of the Grand Master; recognized the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and the Grand Orient of Belgium, and so closed a session which was, as the Grand Secretary says, "One of the largest and most harmonious in our history."

The report on Foreign Correspondence, a very able and well-written summary of the doings of other Grand Lodges, is again from the pen of our learned and M. W. Brother, John J. Barlow. He quotes extensively from other Proceedings, and comments freely. Under Washington, he deals somewhat at length with the subject of "Negro Masonry," and considers the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington ill-advised and certain to lead to the withdrawal of fraternal relation by other Grand Lodges.

British Columbia for 1898 is given over two pages of fraternal notice. The sermon of Brother Logan receives the compliment of an extended quotation.

In his "Conclusion," Brother Barlow sums up as follows:

"Another disturbing topic is the recognition of Negro Masonry by the Grand Lodge of Washington, which has been followed by edict of non-intercourse with that Grand Lodge by the Grand Masters of Kentucky, Maryland, Arkansas, South Carolina, New York and Texas, and so far as we have heard, the unanimous sentiment is of disapproval, as it violates an important principle of American jurisprudence, two Grand Lodges exercising jurisdiction in the same territory. We have given this important matter considerable space in our report, endeavoring to present both sides of the question."

With the report of Proceedings is the report of the "Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut," from which we gather that the number of inmates at present in the Home is 46—adult males, 31; adult females, 12; orphans, 3. The expenses of the Home for the year were \$11,512.53, a daily per capita cost (based on the present population) of 68.5 cents per diem. The assets of the Foundation are \$38,822.88.

The Lodges on the roll number 109. The present membership is 17,232, a gain during the past year of 183.

M. W. GEO. G. M'NALL,
Grand Master.

M. W. JOHN H. BARLOW,
Grand Secretary.

DELAWARE, 1899.

A handsome portrait of the retiring Grand Master, M. W. Jas. E. Dutton, forms a frontispiece to the volume of Proceedings.

An Occasional Communication was held on June 3rd, 1898, for the purpose of dedicating the new Hall of Du Pont Lodge, at Rising Sun.

The Ninety-second Annual Communication was held in the City of Wilmington, on the 5th and 6th of October, 1898, M. W. Jas. E. Dutton, presiding—British Columbia being unrepresented.

The Grand Master delivered a short but interesting address, referring in his opening remarks to the continued favors of the Almighty, and to the successes of the United States arms. He says:

"Our statesmanship has challenged the admiration of the world, our army and navy have given us a standing among the nations of the earth that surprises us as much as them."

Peace and harmony pervade the jurisdiction, and the Brethren have profited by the teachings of the Craft. The Grand Lodge lost three of its prominent members by death, and the eminent Brethren of other Jurisdictions who have departed during the year receive fitting mention.

But few decisions are recorded, those of interest being the following:

"There is no limit to the number of times the same person can apply for admission to a Lodge provided one year intervenes between each application.

"There is no Masonic law in this jurisdiction preventing Masonic Lodges from having life members.

"When a ballot is being taken in a Masonic Lodge for the election or rejection of a candidate, the Tyler, when a member of the Lodge, should be invited to vote. The ballot you refer to was therefore illegal, and must be taken again and the Tyler given the right to vote."

The last decision refers to a case where the ballot was taken without an opportunity to cast a ballot being afforded the Tyler, and it, and the other decisions of the Grand Master were approved by the Grand Lodge.

Three schools of instruction were held during the year, much good resulting therefrom; all the Lodges in the Jurisdiction, twenty-one in number, were visited by the Grand Master, who recommends also that the term of office of the Representatives of the Grand Lodge of Delaware be extended from three to five years.

According to the reports of the different committees, the balance in the Grand Charity fund amounts to \$1,591.17, and that in the Reserve fund to \$1,680.00. The balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer is \$1,341.26.

The following addition to the By-laws was offered, but failing to receive the necessary majority, was lost:

"All Lodges shall exclude from the Lodge room and ante rooms all intoxicating liquors.

"All Lodges are prohibited from receiving and acting upon a petition for initiation or membership of any person engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and Masons are fraternally advised and requested to refrain from engaging in the liquor traffic."

On the second day of the session the Grand Officers were installed, with the exception of the Grand Secretary and Grand Tyler, who, being "re-elected" (or re-appointed) "it was not necessary to install."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence advised the adoption of the proposal of the Grand Lodge of Maine, limiting the effect of a rejection to five years, but after some discussion the recommendation was laid on the table.

R. W. Brother Jackson submits another of his excellent Reports on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the

Proceedings of fifty-eight sister Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1897 and 1898.

Under Colorado he says, referring to Brother Greenleaf, "He does not approve of the restriction of the powers of Wardens in the matter of conferring degrees, but perhaps he has not been disgusted, as we have, at seeing beardless and ill-formed Wardens initiating men of age, education and refinement, who could scarcely conceal their feelings of distaste. We admit that the P. M. does not always avoid a like result, but there is better security for 'good work' being done."

We can only suggest that, instead of curtailing the powers of the wardens, steps should be taken to polish them up, and, if possible, provide them with suitable hire-sute appendages.

Under Maine, Brother Jackson says of the so-called Past Master's degree:

"Brother Drummond says it is convenient to call a part of the ceremony of installation 'a degree, and it is quite generally called so. But we maintain it is not correct, it is a misnomer, and should be discarded or relegated to the Royal Arch system."

Brother Jackson does not believe in 'making a Mason at sight'; condemns the use of ciphers or printed rituals; believes that an unaffiliated Mason may apply for membership to any Lodge that will receive his petition; holds that "affirmation" is not a proper way of taking Masonic obligations, and agrees with Brother Cunningham, of Ohio, that the proper way of wearing the Master's apron is with the "right hand corner tucked up." Brother Jackson compliments M. W. Brother McLaren and V. W. Brother Logan on the excellence of their addresses, and says:

"We are pleased to note the coincidence that the Grand Master and the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia are prominent clergymen. The fact refutes the slander that Freemasonry is inimical to Christianity."

For the kind way in which he speaks of our own share of the Proceedings we are exceedingly grateful.

Deleware has 21 Lodges with a membership of 2,176, a gain of 50 during the year.

M. W. J. HARMER RILE,
Grand Master.

R. W. BENJ. F. BARTRAM,
Grand Secretary.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1898.

Special Communications of this Grand Lodge were held 30th of March, 1898; 16th of May, 1898; and 18th of October, 1898. At the first the work and lectures were exemplified; the second was to attend the funeral of the late Brother P. Hooe, P. D. G. M., and the third to lay the corner stone of the Douglas Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Semi-annual Communication was held on the 11th of May, 1898. The Committee on Jurisprudence reported recommending the suspension of friendly relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and the Grand Lodge concurred in their recommendation.

The Annual Communication was held on the 9th of November, 1898, the Grand Master, M. W. Samuel C. Palmer, presiding.

Fourteen pages suffice for his address, in which he congratulates the Brethren upon the happy auspices under which they meet, and upon the peace and prosperity which exist in the Jurisdiction. He devotes a short space to the memory of departed Brethren; enumerates the dispensations issued, many of which, we regret to say, were for the railroading of candidates; and records his decisions, which were only two. The first is to the effect that, a black ball having appeared in two successive ballots, it was illegal to pass the ballot a third time. The second decides that a Lodge must have the sanction of the Grand Lodge for the continued occupancy of a hall in which other than Masonic organizations meet.

The Masonic Fair, organized for the purpose of providing funds for the erection of a new Masonic Temple in the City, proved an unqualified success, the amount raised being a substantial nucleus for the building fund.

With much regret the Grand Master was compelled to decline invitations from the Grand Masters of New York and New Jersey to be present at the sessions of their respective Grand Lodges, and from the Grand Master of Pennsylvania to attend the laying of the corner stone of the new Capitol building at Harrisburg.

A considerable amount of business was transacted, which, however, was mainly of local interest.

The Installation Communication was held on the evening of December 27th, 1898.

The Library Committee reported the addition of 150 books during the year, the number of volumes now in the Library being 3,140.

The officers for the ensuing year were duly installed, and certain routine business transacted.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother Wm. R. Singleton, as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, submits his twenty-ninth Annual Report, in which he condenses the doings of fifty Grand Lodges into ninety-five pages.

British Columbia for 1898 is given a fraternal notice. Brother Singleton agrees with us as to the manner in which members dropped for non-payment of dues should be reinstated, but could not get his Grand Lodge to see it in that light.

Twenty-five Lodges work in the District of Columbia, and their membership numbers 5,289, an increase of 156 during the year.

M. W. JOHN H. SMALL,

Grand Master.

R. W. WILLIAM R. SINGLETON,

Grand Secretary.

**UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND,
1898-99.**

A Quarterly Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of England was held in Freemason's Hall, London, on the 7th of September, 1898, R. W. Wm. W. B. Beach, M. P., Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, in the Chair.

A resolution was passed offering the sympathy of the Grand Lodge to the M. W. Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, in the suffering occasioned by the accident which happened to him.

In accordance with a resolution passed in 1896, the M. W. Grand Master was pleased to extend recognition to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand.

The Board of Benevolence reported that during the months of June, July and August, 1898, it had relieved fifty-three petitioners to the extent of £1,205, and recommended special grants for the relief of nine applicants to the amount of £560, which were granted by Grand Lodge.

Upon the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes, the Grand Lodge resolved to increase the salaries of certain of its clerks; voted to grant the sum of £100 to the widow of the late Assistant Grand Secretary, and decided to erase the name of Hervey Lodge, No. 1,788, Trinidad, from the list of Lodges.

A Quarterly Communication was held on the 1st of March, 1899. The Earl of Anherst was installed Pro Grand Master, and the Lord Warwick, Deputy Grand Master, for the ensuing year.

A communication was read from the M. W. Grand Master, removing the ban from the Grand Lodge of Peru.

H. R. H. the Prince of Wales was again elected M. W. Grand Master, *nemine contradicente*, and was so proclaimed.

The Board of Benevolence report having relieved fifty-eight applicants during the quarter, the amount of relief being £1,230. They further recommend additional appropriations to the extent of £375, which were granted by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge heard an appeal from a Brother of Buenos Ayres against the District Grand Master of the Argentine Republic. The Brother in question had been excluded by his Lodge for having threatened to black-ball "every man that was put up." Upon having been taxed with having black-balled a certain candidate, he admitted having done so, "not because I had anything against the man, but because I said I would." The action of the Lodge was upheld by the District Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge dismissed the appeal.

M. W., H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES,
Grand Master.

V. W. EDWARD LETCHWORTH,
Grand Secretary.

FLORIDA, 1899.

A Special Communication of this Grand Lodge was held in the City of De Land, on the 4th of July, 1898, the object being the laying of the corner stone of the new Public School building in that city.

M. W. James M. Hilliard, Grand Master, whose counterfeit presentment faces the title page of the volume, presided at the Seventieth Annual Communication, which was held in the City of Jacksonville, beginning on the 17th of January, 1899.

In his address, he welcomes the members of the Grand Lodge; refers feelingly to Brethren whose deaths have occurred during the year, and chronicles the fact that he issued an edict of non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru, which edict he afterwards revoked.

During the year he issued a charter to one new Lodge; granted a number of dispensations—many of them for the

conferring of degrees out of time; declined to authorize a "military Lodge," and refused to allow the Grand Master of Virginia to establish one in the Jurisdiction.

Several decisions are recorded, the only one we feel called upon to note being the following:

"Q. On September 23rd, 1897, a Lodge in this district received and rejected a petition, and on the 8th of January, 1898, the same Lodge received and elected the petitioner, and, in May, conferred the E. A. Degree.

"On my (the D.D.G.M.'s) official visit a short time afterwards, I discovered the mistake made by the Lodge, and refused to pass the candidate until I could hear from you. Please give your ruling on this question.

"A. It was an error of the Lodge and not of the candidate, therefore the Lodge should pass and raise him if there be no other objection."

He made several official visits; referred the matter of "Negro Masonry" to a special committee, and recommends the Grand Lodge to legislate against the admission of liquor sellers. He quotes a case, which, we think, would have been properly met by charges preferred in the Lodge. He also recommends the preparation and printing of a Report on Foreign Correspondence, which we think a very wise suggestion.

An interesting oration was delivered by Brother Reginald H. Weller, the central thought being, "Be men of your time."

The committee charged with the duty of investigating "Negro Masonry" made a lengthy report, quoting from the report of the Washington Committee, and giving at length the letter of the Grand Master of Washington and the reply of the Grand Master of New York thereto. They recommend the severance of fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington, and the Grand Lodge adopted their report.

The Committee on Jurisprudence stated that all rulings of the Grand Master have been made in accordance with Florida Masonic law, and decide also several questions which had been submitted to them. One of these is—

"Whether, when a brother is suspended for non-payment of dues subsequent repayment re-instates him?"

To which they answer "It does not."

They also submit a resolution declaring that the Grand Lodge "advises and instructs its subordinates not to accept the petitions of persons engaged in the liquor traffic."

A lengthy report on the History of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, of Florida, is printed as an appendix to the Proceedings. It is an interesting document, but too long for reproduction. This Lodge is so old that its origin is lost in the mists of antiquity, it being presumed, however, that it is a Lodge which was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1768.

There is no report on Foreign Correspondence, but as a Report was authorized for next year, and a committee appointed, we live in hopes.

The Lodges in the State number 144, with a membership of 4,187.

M. W. SILAS B. WRIGHT,
Grand Master.

R. W. WILBER P. WEBSTER,
Grand Secretary.

GEORGIA, 1898.

Upon opening the volume containing the Proceedings of the One hundredth and twelfth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, we are greeted with an excellent portrait of M. W. James W. Taylor, the retiring Grand Master.

The Annual Communication was held in the City of Macon on the 25th of October, 1898, British Columbia being represented by Brother Julius S. Brown.

The Grand Master's address is a document of some thirty pages of print. He cordially welcomes the members of Grand Lodge, but regrets that some familiar faces will no more be seen among them. Prominent in the list of departed Brethren appears the name of R. W. W. A. Love,

Past Deputy Grand Master, who died on the 22nd of January, 1898.

The decisions rendered appear to be correct according to local Masonic law, except No. 3, which is as follows:

"3. An Englishman, not having been naturalized, though living in America several years, is still a subject of England, and not an American citizen, and is not eligible to the degrees without the consent of the Grand Lodge of England. This decision being based upon an edict of this Grand Lodge, declaring 'a man's home is determined by the place where he votes and pays poll tax.' "

The Committee on Jurisprudence very properly reversed this decision, saying that "residence, not citizenship, fixes jurisdiction in Masonry."

Several dispensation were granted for the establishment of new Lodges, and several of the same were, for local reasons, refused. "Having had experience with military Lodges," the Grand Master refused to issue dispensations for their formation, though, as a matter of courtesy, he granted the request of the Grand Master of Vermont to be allowed to establish such a Lodge in Georgia.

Harmony exists between the Grand Lodge of Georgia and other Grand Lodges. The Grand Master found it necessary to prohibit intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru, but upon that Grand Lodge repenting of its errors, he was happy to remove the interdict.

Finding, "upon investigation, that the *Gran Dieta Symbolica* of Mexico has been recognized by a number of sister Grand Jurisdictions, with whom we are in fraternal relations and in strict accord with this Grand Lodge," he extended the right hand of fellowship to that Body, and requested an exchange of Representatives. He says:

"If the Grand Lodge of Georgia should take the initiative step in doing justice to any body of Masons who are regular, and in conformity to the ancient landmarks, she but does her duty."

Exactly so, but the question at the present time appears to be whether or not the *Gran Dieta* is such a body.

The District Grand Deputies, the Grand Master says, have faithfully discharged their duties; the financial condition of the Grand Lodge is somewhat improved, their

debt having been reduced nearly \$2,000, and numerically they have increased.

During the year a handsome monument to the memory of the late Grand Secretary, R. W. A. N. Wolihin, was erected at a cost of \$744.50.

The afternoon of the first day of the session was observed as a "Special Memorial Session" in memory of the late R. W. Brother William Abram Love.

The Committee appointed to investigate the financial condition of the Grand Lodge submitted a lengthy and exhaustive report, dealing with the finances of the Grand Lodge from the year 1883, and offering a number of suggestions for the reduction of the Grand Lodge debt. Among these were a reduction in the size of several committees; changing some committees from permanent to special committees; the reduction of the mileage from 10 cents a mile to 5 cents, and increasing the *per diem* from \$3.00 to \$4.00 *per diem*. The suggestions were adopted, and we hope in the near future to see this Grand Lodge free from debt.

The Grand Lodge decided to recognize the Grand Orient of Belgium, but declined to fraternize with the Grand Lodge of Portugal.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, comprising a review of the doings of sixty Grand Lodges, is again the work of our accomplished Brother, Rev. W. S. Ramsay. Written, during a season of ill health, and amidst pressing engagements. It is, nevertheless, a concise and impartial resume of the Proceedings under review.

British Columbia for 1897 is fraternally noticed by Brother Ramsay. V. W. Brother Logan's sermon is characterized as "excellent." We thank Brother Ramsay for his kind words concerning our report, and trust that long ere this our distinguished brother has regained his health.

Four hundred and twenty-three chartered Lodges are at work in Georgia, of which 406 were represented at this

Communication. The membership numbers 18,611, a gain of 48.

M. W. W. A. DAVIS,
Grand Master.

R. W. W. A. WOLIHIN,
Grand Secretary.

IDAHO, 1898.

Emergent Communications of this Grand Lodge were held on the 3rd of March and on the 3rd of July, 1898, the former to bury the body of the late R. W. Charles C. Stevenson, Grand Secretary, and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and the latter to perform the same sad duty in the case of the late M. W. Isidore S. Weiler, Past Grand Master.

The Thirty-first Annual Communication was held in Boise, commencing on the 13th of September, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Geo. M. Waterhouse, being absent from the Jurisdiction, and the Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Geo. Garbut, being unfortunately prevented by illness, the Grand Lodge was opened by R. W. Geo. H. Storer, Senior Grand Warden.

Brother Alfred Moyes, Past Junior Grand Warden, represented British Columbia.

The Grand Master's address was read by the Grand Secretary. In it the Grand Master tenderly alludes to the deaths of R. W. Jas. H. Bush, Past Grand Warden; R. W. Chas. C. Stevenson, Grand Secretary, and M. W. Isidore S. Weiler, Past Grand Master, all eminent in the Craft in Idaho. He made a number of official visits and found the Lodges generally prosperous and anxious to become proficient in the recognised work of the Jurisdiction. Eight decisions are recorded, all of which appear to be in harmony with general Masonic practice, and all of which were approved by the Grand Lodge No. 2, is to the effect that a man is not disqualified for the degrees in Idaho by reason of being a hunchback.

In the matter of the irregularities in Port Neuf Lodge, No. 18, in which our representative, Brother Alfred Moyes, was mixed up, the Grand Master ordered charges to be preferred against Brother Moyes for unmasonic conduct. A trial was held, and the Committee on Jurisprudence say : "In the matter of Port Neuf Lodge No. 18, against Alfred Moyes for unmasonic conduct, we find the proceedings regular and in due form, and recommend that the action of the Lodge be sustained." We cannot find any intimation of what the "action of the Lodge" was, but from the fact that Brother Moyes was present at this Communication of the Grand Lodge, we presume that the charges against him were dismissed. Supposing this to be the case, Brother Moyes has our congratulations.

On account of the death of Brother Stevenson, the Grand Master appointed R. W. Theo. W. Randall to the office of Grand Secretary, and M. W. Fred G. Mock to that of Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

The Grand Master thinks that non-attendance is one of the greatest Masonic evils of the day, which leads to more suspensions for non-payment of dues than any other single cause. The remedy for this, he says, consists in making the Lodge meetings more interesting by rehearsing the work of the different degrees ; by reading and discussing Masonic history, and by reading and discussing the Grand Lodge reports.

The R. W. Senior Grand Warden also submits a short resume of the duties performed by him during the absence of the Grand Master from the Jurisdiction.

The new Grand Secretary, R. W. Theo. W. Randall, presents a very exhaustive report, going thoroughly into the affairs of his office. Having taken over the office in the middle of the year, Brother Randall experienced some difficulty in getting things straightened out, but we are confident that he will make a worthy successor to the late incumbent.

The finances of this Grand Lodge appear to be in a satisfactory condition. According to the report of the Grand Treasurer, the cash balances in the various funds

amount to \$3,669. and the Orphan Fund is now \$28,227.74.

Greetings were exchanged with the Grand Lodges of Wyoming and Montana, and invitations were received and accepted from Boise Lodge and Ada Chapter, O. E. S., to a reception and banquet, and from the Warden of the State Penitentiary.

The official "Signet Ring" was presented to the new Grand Master with a few well-chosen remarks, and the Grand Lodge closed.

As before stated, M. W. Brother Fred G. Mock succeeds to the reportorial pen of the late Brother Stevenson, and furnishes a very interesting digest of the proceedings of fifty-two sister Grand Lodges. Brother Mock wobbles a little between the personal "I" and the editorial "we," and a little more careful proof-reading would improve his report. Otherwise he is all right, and we welcome him to the guild.

He does not believe in the "railroading" of candidates. He says: "Extend the time between the degrees, but shorten it, never." Of the "cipher" he says:

"The only effective way to deal with the cipher question is to make it a Masonic offence to own one. During the three years the writer was Grand Lecturer of Idaho, he gathered enough ciphers or keys and burned them to confuse the largest Jurisdiction in the world if kept in use. During the year he was Grand Master he saw only two copies, both of which were turned over to him and burned in the presence of the Lodge where found. They are at present a rare book in Idaho, and we hope to see the day when we can point with pride to the fact that not a single copy is known to be left in the Jurisdiction."

British Columbia is favorably noticed for 1897 and 1898. Brother Mock mourns with us the deaths of M. W. Brother Wolfe and V. W. Brother Heisterman; quotes from the report of District Deputy Grand Master F. McB. Young, and commends the sermon of V. W. Brother Logan. For his kind words of our work, we beg to offer our thanks.

Inserted in the volume are excellent portraits of M. W. Brothers Geo. L. Shoup, (Grand Master 1889), John W. Meyer (1891), Geo. M. Waterhouse (1897), and Geo. H. Storer, (1898).

The returns show 29 chartered Lodges with a membership of 1,240.

M. W. GEO. H. STORER,
Grand Master.

R. W. THEO. W. RANDALL,
Grand Secretary.

ILLINOIS, 1899.

The Fifty-ninth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Illinois was opened in the City of Chicago on the 4th of October, 1898, M. W. Edward Cook, Grand Master, presiding.

British Columbia was represented as usual by the veteran Loyal L. Munn.

The Grand Master in his address alludes with feelings of pride to the successful conclusion of the late war ; feelingly refers to the dead of his own and of sister Jurisdictions, and records the fact that during the year six Lodges were constituted and three formed under dispensation. Three Halls were dedicated and three corner stones laid. He compliments the District Deputy Grand Masters on the manner in which they have performed their work, and suggests that more definite rules be laid down for their guidance. With their customary large-heartedness, the Brethren of Illinois contributed freely to several appeals for assistance, notably to the sufferers from the flood that wrecked the City of Shawneetown, for whose relief \$2,069.47 were contributed.

The system of imparting instruction by means of Masonic schools obtains in this Jurisdiction, and the Grand Master speaks admiringly of the results obtained from them. In his visits to the Lodges he has found the work done in a "most beautiful, accurate and impressive manner." In a few Lodges, however, the Grand Master was displeased to find attempts made to "improve upon, enlarge, ornament and spectacularize" the ceremonies, which he discountenanced. In order to meet the requirements of the

large number of German Brethren in the Jurisdiction, the Grand Master has had the "Standard Monitor" translated into that language.

The Grand Master states that while many questions were propounded to him during the year, they were mainly such as required an explanation or interpretation of the law as it existed, and no decisions of sufficient importance to warrant special mention were made. He closes an able address with these words :

"Let us then go boldly forward, thankful for a glorious past, and trustfully, prayerfully confident of a yet more glorious future."

W. Brother Martin Collins, representative of the Grand Lodge of Illinois near the Grand Lodge of Missouri, was introduced and received in a fitting manner.

The following proposed amendment to the Grand Lodge By-laws was (unfortunately, we think) lost.

"Every petitioner for the degrees shall, in addition to the questions and statements herein prescribed, bear upon its face the following question, viz.:

" 'Masonry not being a benefit society, have you seriously considered whether your circumstances will enable you to support the Institution?' "

An amendment was adopted providing that an expelled Mason seeking restoration shall petition the Lodge which expelled him, which may, by a two-thirds vote, recommend the petition to the Grand Lodge. In case the expelling Lodge be defunct, the petitioner may apply directly to the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge had the pleasure of listening to a very able oration by M. W. Brother General J. G. Smith, on the subject of "Freemasonry Universal." The M. W. Brother states that evidences have been found of the existence of Freemasonry at the time of the construction of the Temple of the Sun, (1591 B. C.) He also says :

"The Persians, passing into India, carried Freemasonry with them, but the Hindus were not Freemasons, nor have the Chinese or Japanese ever been members of our fraternity, unless they first became Christianized, and we do not know of one of the latter to this day who has become a Freemason. That there are Lodges of Freemasons in each of these countries we are well aware, but they are supported and maintained by Europeans or believers in Islam."

After the thanks of Grand Lodge had been tendered to M. W. Brother Smith for his admirable oration, the Grand Master introduced the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, M. W. Brother J. W. Stone, who was received with the Grand Honors.

An amendment to the By-laws was adopted making the non-payment of dues a Masonic offence, and prohibiting the creation of life members.

M. W. Brother Joseph Robbins, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, is again to hand with a voluminous, but intensely interesting report. At the solicitation of the Grand Master he has departed from his usual style, and furnishes a report arranged according to topics. While, as we said before, it is a most interesting report, the nature of its construction renders it difficult to give a digest of it, and it must be read to be appreciated.

British Columbia receives the compliment of being freely quoted from, and we have to thank our distinguished Brother for the very flattering words with which he greets our first attempt as a reviewer.

Of a practice which, unfortunately, shows a tendency to become too common, namely, that of allowing some one Brother to cast the entire vote of the Lodge in an election. Brother Robbins says :

"It has been many years since such a motion was entertained in our Grand Lodge, and it was never entertained against a single objection. We have marvelled much in our reviewing at the increasing frequency with which Grand Secretaries permit such a motion to get into the record, especially in incorporated, property-holding Grand Lodges, in the face of the opinion of many good jurists that an election so had is of questionable validity. The motion should not be entertained, but if it is, the record should show only the fact of the election, not also the method of voting, however flattering it may be to the Grand Secretary or Grand Treasurer, the usual beneficiaries of the motion."

Brother Robbins deals at some length with the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Peru, or the Grand Master thereof, in ordering the removal of the Bible from the altars of its Lodges. He gives the circular promulgated by Grand Master Christian Dam, and the different edicts issued by several American Grand Masters. Most of these edicts,

Brother Robbins thinks, are open to the objection of being couched in language which may be described as "talking to the galleries." Of the action of the Grand Lodge of New York in the premises Brother Robbins says :

"The opportunity for the Grand Master of New York to place his Grand Lodge in a zealously orthodox light before the fraternity and profane world—for the Committee on Address, it will be remembered, say that his action 'excited the wide-spread and favorable public comment of the most eminent representatives of the pulpit and the press'—was indeed a timely one in view of the so recent recognition of the Gran Dieta Symbolica of Mexico when the Bible was excluded from its Lodges. True, this was not done with the flourish of trumpets which attended the exclusion of Peru, but very quietly, and albeit very successfully, as the testimony of an eyewitness, Brother Parvin, shows.

"The Committee on Address seem to have been carried a little farther by the general enthusiasm of the moment than the facts would warrant, when they speak of the ringing words of the Grand Master, 'in which he calls attention to the fact that no so-called Masonic body can disturb the position of the greatest of the three great lights and continue to hold fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge.'

"At all events we have not been advised that the Grand Lodge of New York has withdrawn its fraternal fellowship from the Gran Dieta Symbolica, notwithstanding the 'position' of the Bible in the Lodges of the latter, where, according to the following article of the 'baluster,' which decrees the 'restoration' of the Bible, one of the great lights is seen to be compounded of two books, one being decreed insufficient:

"'Art. 5. Since (after) the publication of the present baluster, all the lodges shall place on the altar of obligation the book of the Bible, which shall be the foundation in ritualistic Masonry, and for the observance of all regular Masons, the same as the constitutions, and over *both* a square and the compass.'

"The italics are ours. It will be interesting to observe whether in case the restoration foreshadowed by the letter of Past Grand Master Crosby should be of the same kind, it will be held sufficient to warrant a resumption of fraternal relations with Peru, on the part of the Grand Lodge of New York, and still more interesting to observe whether it will be held to be sufficient by the Grand Lodge of Iowa, the latter having recognized the Gran Dieta Symbolica on the strength of this baluster, and unlike New York, after the rank and file of the body were fully informed that the Bible was nowhere in sight in the Mexican Lodges."

Another subject handled by Brother Robbins is "Electioneering for Office," which he strongly condemns. He then goes on to speak of the "kindred sin of electioneering for Masonry—proselyting for the Lodge," which he thinks is not always due to the "ignorant zeal of the younger Brethren," but sometimes to the desire of Masters

to "make a good record for work." He quotes the following resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin :

"Resolved that this Grand Lodge hereby re-affirms its condemnation of this unmasonic practice, and strictly enjoins all Masons of its obedience, from even the slightest hint to a profane that his membership in the fraternity is desirable."

And it goes on to say:

"It is generally true that it is among the younger brethren that the outcroppings of this forgetting or unlearning zeal are most frequently seen, but there is only too good reason to fear that it is with the tacit consent of their superiors in age and station, whose ambition either for themselves or for their Lodge is too much tickled by the results to permit them to do their duty by the uninformed. If the Wisconsin action was not so intended, it is admirably calculated to reach and remedy the cases where the Master and Wardens are not sufficiently solicitous to see that the law on this important point is permitted to filter down to the rank and file—and human nature is pretty much the same everywhere. Every Grand Lodge might advantageously adopt a similar regulation."

"Cipher rituals" next come in for Brother Robbin's attention, and as we expressed our views on this subject in last year's report, we need only say that we are glad to have the support of so eminent a Mason in the position we then took.

Brother Robbins devotes something like forty pages of his report to a discussion of the status of Mexican Masonry, quoting fully from writers on both sides of the question. Did space permit, we would willingly set before our Brethren many of his able arguments against the recognition by English-speaking Grand Lodges, of the *Gran Dieta*, but must content ourselves with transcribing one paragraph which expresses in much better language than our own, a matter which has been puzzling us.

"Touching his" (Brother Jamieson of Missouri) "remark that, according to the terms of the Grand Dieta, women who had formerly been received into Lodges in Mexico might properly be refused admission should they attempt to visit Lodges in a jurisdiction which has recognised the Gran Dieta, we should like light upon the question whether women made Masons under the authority of the Gran Dieta during the period when by its laws their making was lawful, could any more properly be refused admission than men made Masons under the same authority *during the same period*."

Negro Masonry, which has recently come prominently to the fore in the neighboring Jurisdiction of Washington, is discussed by Brother Robbins at some length. He gives

in extenso, the report of the special committee charged by the Grand Lodge of Washington with the investigation of the Masonic legitimacy of certain persons claiming to be "Free and Accepted Masons of African descent," and after reviewing the history of "Negro Masonry" on this continent, heartily concurs in the resolutions submitted by that committee and adopted by the Grand Lodge of Washington.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last session of the Grand Lodge, Brother Robbins has prepared an able and exhaustive report upon "Recognized, Recognizable, and other Governing Bodies," which is embodied in his report on Foreign Correspondence. In the list of recognised Grand Lodges he gives, besides those of the United States, Great Britain and Canada, only those of New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia and Victoria, besides which the Grand Lodge of Tasmania is recommended for recognition. Those considered ineligible for recognition include the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico, the Grand Lodges of Peru, the Dominican Republic, Sweden, Alpina (Switzerland), Hungary, Hamburg and Luxemburg; all Grand Orients, *and all supreme councils, or sovereign sanctuaries, or other powers however named, wherever situated, of whatever rite—excepting Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons—assuming to erect Lodges with authority to confer the three degrees of symbolic Masonry.*"

There are other topics treated in Brother Robbins' masterly style, viz., "Using Masonry for Business Purposes," "Non-affiliation and the Non-payment of Dues," "Cremation," and "The Order of the Eastern Star," but the exigencies of space compel us to bring this notice to a close.

Illinois has 722 Lodges, with a membership of 54,080, a gain of 628.

M. W. EDWARD COOK,
Grand Master.

R. W. J. H. C. DILL,
Grand Secretary.

INDIANA, 1898.

The Seventy-seventh Annual Communication, held in the 81st year of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, was opened in the City of Indianapolis on the 24th of May, 1898, M. W. Mason J. Niblack, Grand Master, presiding.

The Grand Master's Address clearly sets forth his work during the year. This included the interdiction of the Grand Lodge of Peru; the constituting of six new Lodges, and the organizing of five more under dispensation. Two corner stones were laid, and two Halls dedicated. Logging circulars are condemned; the Washington Memorial is mentioned, and the "History of Masonry in Indiana," by Past Grand Master Daniel McDonald, is brought to the favorable notice of Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother W. H. Smythe, submits his twentieth Annual Report which, besides detailing the more important work done by him during the past year, indulges in a review of the twenty years which have passed since he was elected Grand Secretary. From this we learn that in 1878 the Grand Lodge of Indiana was in debt to the extent of \$103,666.66, with cash in the hands of the Treasurer amounting to \$327.78. At the time of the Grand Lodge meeting in 1898, this enormous debt had been wiped out, and in its place was seen a credit of \$45,214.47, which is truly a magnificent showing. Of the condition of the Craft the Grand Secretary says: "Dissensions are unknown among us, and the heart and tongue unite in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence had under consideration the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru in prohibiting the use of the Bible on its altars, and also a petition, or circular, from several Master Masons in Monterey, Mexico, asking for the recognition of Mexican Masonry by the Grand Lodges of the United States. With regard to the former, they recommend that all Masonic communication with the Grand Lodge of Peru be suspended. As to the latter, they say that the information before them does

not warrant any action in the matter. Their recommendation in each case was adopted.

The Grand Lodge decided that a man "who had lost the two first fingers of his right hand at the *third* joint," cannot be made a Mason in Indiana.

A capital likeness of M. W. Simeon S. Johnson, Grand Master, forms a frontispiece to the volume, while portraits of M. W. Brothers Alex. C. Downey and Andrew J. Hay, Past Grand Masters, and of Alex. Thomas, Past Grand Senior Deacon, are found further on in the book. A picture of the magnificent Masonic Temple at Indianapolis also adorns the front of the volume.

The report on Foreign Correspondence by M. W. Brother Nicholas R. Ruckle, reviews the proceedings of fifty-four English speaking and six non-English speaking Grand Lodges. His report is a terse, well-written paper, giving in brief the more important doings of the Grand Lodges under review. Brother Ruckle differs from Brother Davidson, of Arkansas, on the Sunday observance question, believing that as English speaking Masons recognize the Bible as one of the Great Lights, they ought to conform to its teachings. He has also no use for legislation which makes non-affiliation a Masonic crime.

His review of British Columbia is for 1897, and we thank him for his kind mention of our work.

Indiana has 489 chartered Lodges, of which 480 were represented at this Communication. The members number 29,954, a gain for the year of 567.

We find no mention of the attendance of our representative, Brother Wm. F. Tuley.

M. W. SIMEON S. JOHNSON,
Grand Master.

R. W. WILLIAM H. SMYTHE,
Grand Secretary.

IOWA, 1898.

Facing the title page of this handsome volume is a capital group-picture of the five elective officers of the Grand Lodge.

The Fifty-fifth Annual Communication opened at Council Bluffs on the 7th of June, 1898.

The Grand Master says :

"The past Masonic year has come and gone amidst the greatest blessings to Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction; the Christian Mason can look back with his highest hopes realized, with undaunted confidence in his God as the Ruler and the Eternal Spirit of Right ever present to approve and bless all good works; with a full satisfaction that his faith is well founded and that all the principles of right 'shall and will prevail.' "

Acting upon information received, he issued an edict of non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru ; he laid several corner stones ; arrested one Master's jewel and issued charters to four new Lodges. He deals with the cipher question and says :

"I cannot but feel that the adoption of a cipher by this Grand Lodge, and to proclaim it to the world as the authentic secrets of Masonry would be one of the most flagrant acts of wrong to Masonry of any legislation that we could adopt.

"Masonry, as originally taught in its simplicity and purity, knew nothing of a published, written, or printed ritual, as indeed, every obligation taken by a Mason earnestly prohibits such, and this Grand Lodge has gone quite far enough when it even authorized the preparation of two or three official copies of the ritual in cipher form."

The Grand Master suggests a revision of the code ; thinks the money devoted to the library is well spent ; believes that the Order of the Eastern Star is a valuable adjunct to Masonry, and suggests that it be allowed the use of Masonic Halls.

The reports of R. W. Brother Parvin as Grand Secretary and Grand Librarian are very full and interesting. The library is Brother Parvin's hobby, and is very much in evidence even in his report as Grand Secretary. To say that this feature of Iowa Masonry is in a flourishing condition, is putting it mildly, and it is evident to all who read

the Iowa Proceedings that a large part, if not the whole of its success, is due to the untiring efforts and faithful services of Brother Parvin and his son, the Assistant Grand Secretary. In his report, Brother Parvin gives fac similes of the title pages of several old and extremely rare and valuable Masonic works, which must be, as he says, "the envy of all collectors and book-worms." He urges the compilation of a catalogue; hopes that in the near future we shall hear something of endowments for Masonic libraries, and says that the number of books loaned from the library is indisputable evidence that it fills a long-felt want.

From the report of the Trustees of the Grand Charity Fund we gather that during the year the sum of \$3,703.55 was expended in the relief of the needy, and appropriations for the same purpose to the amount of \$3,019.98 are recommended. The amount in the permanent fund is now \$4,300.00, invested at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

At the last Grand Lodge meeting a committee was appointed to consider the best method of imparting the ritual. They submit this year a lengthy and exhaustive report. In order to secure as much information as possible they, early in the year, sent a circular to the different American Grand Lodges, asking information as to the methods employed in the various Jurisdictions to secure uniformity and proficiency in the esoteric work. Replies were received from fifty-two of the fifty-eight Grand Lodges addressed, with the result that according to the method adopted they may, roughly, be divided into four classes:

- 1st. Those having no system.
- 2nd. Those using a cipher or key.
- 3rd. Those having a single Grand Lecturer.
- 4th. Those having a district plan.

The first and third plans are dismissed as being inapplicable. The second and fourth are discussed at some length, and as the conclusions arrived at are interesting, we copy this part of the report *in extenso*.

"THE CIPHER SYSTEM."

"For obvious reasons the names of the states using it are omitted.

"As indicated before, but five Jurisdictions in the country have adopted the plan, and but one of these is of any importance numerically, the next largest having, by its last report, between seven and eight thousand members only.

"From the mere light of authority, then, it is hardly probable that Iowa would adopt this plan, the percentage of its representatives to the whole number of Masons in this country being seven and one-half. Outside of one large Jurisdiction the number of members is less than seventeen thousand, or about two and one-sixth per cent. of the whole, belonging to three hundred and fifty subordinate Lodges. Three of these report the results of the use of the key good, one praises it faintly, while a keen observer from the large Jurisdiction writes: 'Concerning this cipher key and the results which it has accomplished, the members of our Grand Lodge are divided as to whether it has been beneficial or not.' It might also be noted that in this last State, although the key is placed in the hands of the Master of Each Lodge, it has been found necessary to divide the State into districts, and to appoint a Lecturer for each district to supervise the work done with the key, and to see that the results are uniform. This was surprising, as many of our Brethren believed than an official cipher would do away with all Custodians and lessen expense, as each Lodge would run its own independent, uniform existence. Another correspondent, while thinking the work more uniform, believes it was a mistake to place the key in the hands of each Master. He would limit it to the Lecturers.

"Your Committee have been at great pains to secure light on this system, and have received many valuable suggestions, not only from our own Brethren and those Jurisdictions making practical use of the cipher, but also other States and Territories. Sifting all this testimony and theory, as well as doing considerable thinking ourselves, your Committee believe that the interests of Iowa Masonry will not be advanced by the use of the official cipher; that its adoption would be a step backward in the grand triumphal march of the 'Sons of Light.'

"Our reasons are:

"First. It is contrary to Masonic usage, custom and obligations. This objection may be avoided by technicality, but never by honest construction of engagements entered into. It may be termed a mere sentimentality, but sentiment softens the hard places of life, and is the very soul of that 'charity which extends beyond the grave.' It is called old fogysm, and we are referred to the progressiveness of certain so-called higher bodies which are said to have adopted a cipher, but we mistake the disposition of the members of this Grand Body if they accept the dictates of any authority save that of their own enlightened reason.

"Second. If it is put in the hands of each Master, it is impossible to keep it from profane hands. It is thought by holding the Master strictly accountable secrecy could be maintained, yet men die, and the copy is lost. The Masters of the large Jurisdiction above referred to were so held, and yet even now their official work is printed and openly sold by profanes as a money-maker. Again, if there is no danger, why use a cipher at all? Plain print is easier read. If it is lawful to print the secret work in cipher it is lawful to print it at length. The very use of a cipher pre-supposes its being

handled by profanes. Yet even then there is no safety, for the experience of ages teaches that there never was a cipher made by man that some other man could not unlock if it was to his interest, monetary or otherwise, to do so.

Third. The work, if committed to book, will be read in open Lodge. This, we are informed, has actually happened in some so-called higher bodies, and while, perhaps, it might be overcome by stringent law, it is submitted that it is unwise to extend the penal code.

"Fourth.—It is a hindrance to good work. A most zealous Brother of long experience once said: 'Masonry would gain infinitely if every monitor were blotted out of existence.' Experience teaches that if a Master has a book he depends on it. This takes the spirit out of the work. To impress the noble lessons taught by the ritual they must become a part of the Master, must be life of his life, soul of his soul, a part of his very being. The language must be so incorporated with his very self that it flows as his own thought, and not as the words of another. It is a notorious fact that the monitorial part of a degree which has always been plainly printed, yet which belongs to the degree just as much as the most esoteric part, is too often neglected, is run over in a slipshod manner, is even read and at times wholly omitted, the Master saying: 'My Brother, this section of the degree is found in the monitor, which you can read at your leisure.'

"Trust the memory and it will grow stronger. Trust a book and the memory will trust it too.

"Fifth. The vast weight of authority is against it.

"Your Committee appreciate the fact that this argument does not appeal to a thinking man, but it is well to know that if we make this radical departure we enter a path seldom trod. Prudence should, therefore, make us hesitate until the absolute wisdom of the course is demonstrated, and until it becomes plain that there is no other well-trodden way that will lead to the same goal.

"Sixth. This departure cannot be made without serious dissension.

"Were there no other arguments against the cipher system, your Committee believe that this alone should decide the matter. The keen interest taken by the Brethren generally whenever this subject has been brought up, shows that they think strongly, feel deeply, and have a vital interest in the matter, and rightly. This Grand Lodge has lately passed through the throes of a decision on a matter upon which the views were no more diverse, on which the sentiments of the Brethren honestly held were no more antipodal than on the question under discussion. Harmony has been restored; shall we again wrangle? Peace again reigns; shall we disturb it? It was necessary to take up the question, its decision could not be avoided. Do we want a repetition without first exhausting other expedients?

"There are many more reasons that might be urged had your Committee more time and ability. These suggest themselves as the most important, backed as they are by the test of actual experience."

The committee conclude their report by stating that for many reasons they consider the fourth plan, viz., the "district plan," as the most suitable from every point of view.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, by Brother J. C. W. Coxe, is a most excellent paper reflecting the erudition of its author. Brother Coxe does not hesitate to use the scalpel when he sees occasion for it, but it is done in such an amiable manner that even the patient cannot complain.

British Columbia for 1897 receives a very favorable notice of two pages. M. W. Brother Charleson is described as "the wittiest of any of the Craft this year, so far as we have observed, if brevity be 'the soul of wit.'" Brother Logan's sermon is said to be "a finished piece of work, proving the Brother a faithful minister and a wise Master workman."

Brother Coxe says that we were wrong in our inference that he is infected with the cipher disease. He says :

"This writer has never advocated a cipher ritual nor defended the wisdom of such; but he has sturdily insisted on the doctrine of Grand Lodge sovereignty, and therefore on the right of the Grand Lodge to authorize such a ritual if it sees fit. He has had, however, no word of condonation or apology for unauthorized ciphers, but has been and is in hearty sympathy with all attempts to stamp out the pestilence in this and other Jurisdictions."

We regret that our reading of Brother Coxe's remarks led us to suppose that he was, at least, not opposed to a "cipher ritual," but, unless the O. B. taken by Brother Coxe differs from that commonly in use, we do not see how it can be stretched to authorize the printing of a cipher either by a Grand Lodge or an individual. There has never been a cipher yet devised which could not be deciphered, and it must, at all events, be intelligible to the person who wrote it. The fact that someone else commits perjury does not excuse us if we commit the same offence, and it has passed into a proverb that "two wrongs do not make a right." Furthermore we do not yet see, nor has Brother Coxe enlightened us, the difference between a copy of the esoteric work *written in extenso*, one *printed in extenso*, and one written or printed *in cipher*.

Brother Coxe thinks that we are under a misapprehension on the subject of Commandery membership. Let us again quote the words of Grand Master Ball. "Since the amendment to the Code, Section 259b, adopted June, 1894, was enacted depriving dimitted Masons of all Masonic rights except the right to petition for re-instatement, those members of the Blue Lodge who are also members of the Commandery are placed in a peculiarly unpleasant position. They are compelled to meet and hold fraternal intercourse with the members of the Commandery, but as Masons cannot visit Masonic Lodges, walk in Masonic processions, have Masonic aid or receive Masonic burial." It is doubtless our ignorance that is to blame, but if these words do not mean that members of the Blue Lodge who are also members of the Commandery cannot visit Masonic Lodges, &c., we confess that we do not know what they do mean.

Notwithstanding our differences of opinion, we thank Brother Coxe for the courteous manner in which he has set forth his views, and trust he will accept our remarks in the same spirit.

We notice that Iowa has 482 working Lodges, of which 466 were represented at this Communication. The membership on the first of January, 1898, numbered 27,907, a net gain of 405 during the year.

M. W. CROM. BAKER,
Grand Master.

R. W. T. S. PARVIN,
Grand Secretary.

KANSAS, 1899.

The Forty-third Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge was held in the City of Leavenworth, beginning on the 15th of February, 1899, M. W. Maurice L. Stone, Grand Master, presiding. A number of distinguished visitors were present, including M. W. Ethelbert F. Allen, Grand Master of Missouri, and his associate officers.

The Grand Master's address is an interesting account of his work during the year. He congratulates the Grand

Secretary and the Craft upon the completion of a most important work, the registry of members of the Lodges in Kansas from the organization of the first Lodge in 1854 up to the year 1897. He recommends the resumption of friendly relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru, so soon as official intimation has been received that the first Great Light has been restored to its altars. He issued charters to four new Lodges and organized two under dispensation. He issued several dispensations to confer degrees out of time, the reason in each case being the "enlistment" of the applicant. "Appeals for assistance to collect bad debts," were treated as they deserved; edicts were issued discountenancing unauthorized "appeals for aid;" corner stones were laid and one Hall dedicated.

Two decisions were rendered, as follows :

"1. In the temporary absence of the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, the Grand Master may appoint a Past Master, who is a member of the same Lodge, to assemble the Lodge and transact all regular business until such time as the Master or Wardens, one or all of them, shall return, or his or their successor is elected and installed.

2. A brother who has pecuniary obligations to his Lodge in the form of promissory note or mortgage, is not, on that account, debarred from taking a dimit."

Two eminent Brethren were called from labor during the year, in the persons of M. W. John M. Price and M. W. Henry C. Cook, to both of whom the Grand Master alludes in a fraternal manner. He commends the "Home" to the Masons of the State, and trusts that "peace, harmony and brotherly love" may abide with them.

The Grand Master has these forcible remarks on the subject of "keys" :

"A serious obstruction to the correct work in many Lodges is the so-called key. During the course of my visit I have not hesitated to call the Brethren's attention to the fact that they have no more right to carry a printed key in their pocket, or be in possession of one, than they have to write in full the esoteric work; the one is as much a violation of the obligation as the other."

Correct, Brother Stone.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows the income for the year to have been \$15,242.03 and the expenditure, including \$5,000.00 to the Home and \$988.97 to the Charity Fund,

was \$16,412.41, leaving a balance in hand of \$18,069.94 ; \$115.00 were expended in charity during the year, the balance in the Charity Fund being \$3,531.33.

The Annual Report of the Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother A. K. Wilson, is an extremely interesting document. Besides detailing the routine work of the year, he announces the fact that the Grand Lodge registry has at last been completed ; a work to which he points with justifiable pride. He explains the method adopted—the card system—at length, and its merits must be apparent to all who read his report.

W. Brother Lucius W. Perkins furnished the annual oration, which deals with the origin of the Institution and its connection with the ancient speculative guilds. The orator believes that while the principles of Masonry have existed from the earliest times, Masonry, as an Institution, has been gradually evolved during the past centuries, adding to itself from time to time, whatever “eternal truths seem best calculated to regenerate man.” It is full of beautiful truths, and only the lack of space prevents us from extracting from it more largely.

We notice that the appropriations of this Grand Lodge are all on a very liberal scale, the Grand Master being allowed \$800 ; the Grand Treasurer \$500 ; the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence \$300, and the Grand Secretary \$1,800.

The Kansas Masonic Home continues to call for the admiration of the Craft at large. During the year a new dining-room and kitchen were added, and also a hot water heating apparatus. The average population was 32, and the *per diem* cost of maintenance 39 cents *per capita*.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is the second from the pen of Brother John C. Postlethwaite. He says it does not come up to the standard he would like it to reach, but he is not alone there. Probably all of us—at all events of the younger of us—feel the same way, and all we can do is to do as Brother Postlethwaite has done—give the Brethren the best that we can.

Brother Postlethwaite devotes four pages of his report to a fraternal review of British Columbia for 1898. He dissents from the ruling of M. W. Brother McLaren re residential qualification, and personally, we agree with Brother Postlethwaite. He asks what good the regalia would do St. John's Lodge when they attend Divine service, and we can only reply that we do not know. It is customary, however, in this Jurisdiction to wear it on such occasions.

Commenting on the examination of the Grand Master on the occasion of his official visit to Kaslo Lodge, he says that he does not think the proceeding was proper, nor that the dignity and power of the Grand Master were recognized.

Again we agree, Brother Postlethwaite.

The V. W. Grand Chaplain's sermon is said to be "excellent," and lengthy quotations are made from it. Of our own work, Brother Postlethwaite is good enough to be complimentary, and we thank him for his kind expressions.

With all due respect to our Brother, we still think that the ballot-box is a sufficient safeguard against the admission of undesirable material, whether saloon-keepers or others.

Brother Postlethwaite quotes extensively from other Proceedings, making up a report which cannot fail to interest and instruct his Brethren.

The returns show 359 chartered Lodges with a membership of 20,103, the net gain being 215.

M. W. HENRY C. LOOMIS,
Grand Master.

R. W. ALBERT K. WILSON,
Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY, 1898.

A portrait of M. W. Brother R. H. Thompson, Grand Master 1897-1898, forms an excellent frontispiece to this

volume, and facing it is a group-picture of "Our Jewels," i. e., the children of the Kentucky Home.

The Ninety-ninth Annual Communication was held in the City of Louisville, beginning on the 18th of October, 1898.

The Grand Master, in his address, returns thanks for mercies vouchsafed during the year ; is gratified that the Grand Lodge of Peru has returned to the fold ; believes that the Grand Lodge of Washington has been misled, and states that he had appointed a committee to consider the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington and the matter of "Negro Masonry" and to report at this meeting.

Three decisions are recorded which, however, do not deal with any new point. He has invariably refused dispensations to confer degrees out of time, upon which we congratulate him.

He received a petition for a dispensation for a traveling, or Army Lodge, and after due consideration, granted the dispensation. This action on the part of a Grand Master who is so cut up because of the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, strikes us as being, to say the least, peculiar.

A request to allow a second ballot for a rejected candidate was, properly, refused. The Grand Master thinks that the "Past Master's degree" is "an anomaly and a nuisance," which should, in his opinion, be abolished.

"Improper and unauthorized books" are troubling this Jurisdiction, the Grand Master having learned that such things were in circulation. His numerous official visits were occasions of much pleasure, especially that to the "Worshipful Master and Ladies of Fortitude Lodge, No. 47." The "Home" receives a word of praise, and the Board of Directors is complimented upon the manner in which they have conducted its affairs.

After urging the Brethren to greater care in the selection of material, the Grand Master says :

"Brethren, what is the use of placing the Great Light on your

altars if you never read it? There is not a form, a ceremony, an allegory, or a symbol in Masonry that does not find its true interpretation in the pages of the Holy Book. Its words are truth. They are life. They only contain the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. When Masonry ceases to be the handmaid of religion it becomes an empty sham—a waste of time."

The committee to whom was referred the matter of "Negro Masonry" submit a lengthy report, traversing in every particular the finding of a similar committee of the Grand Lodge of Washington. They deny that "Negro" Lodges have any kind of legitimacy, and deny also the right of the Grand Lodge of Washington (which is, as Brother Coxé would say, a sovereign Masonic body) to recognize them. They submit the following resolution, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge :

"Resolved,—That in view of the action in regard to Negro Masonry, taken by the Grand Lodge of Washington, Free and Accepted Masons, at its last Communication, this Grand Lodge hereby declares non-intercourse with its subordinates and members, and the said Grand Lodge of Washington, its subordinates and members."

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, by M. W. Brother W. W. Clark, is this year written in the manner for a long time peculiar to the late Brother Fellows, of Louisiana. Taking up various topics of interest to the Masonic world, he quotes the views of other writers, *pro* and *con*, and sums up with a few pointed remarks of his own. As our M. W. Brother has copied so freely from others, he will, we are confident, pardon us if we in turn plagiarize from him. Thus, of the Bible he says :

"Is the Bible one of the Great Lights of Masonry? If so, a Lodge can not be opened without its being displayed on its altar. Its presence may not make a convocation a Lodge, but in its absence no Lodge can exist. The question propounded is a serious one. In some high quarters it is held that the book which embodies the religious teachings of a nation is the book to be used upon the altars of the Lodges of that country, and, to the Masons of that nation, is a great light of the Order. It is urged that otherwise the universality of Masonry would be destroyed. This is the teaching of Mac-Key, and, doubtless, of others. If it be true, then it is not true that the Bible is one of the great lights of Masonry, and our rituals need revising; but, on the contrary, *that book* which embodies the theology of the country wherein a Lodge is held, the square and the compass are the great lights of Masonry, and the Bible may or may not be one of them, as the Lodge is or is not held in a Christian country. The question is worthy of consideration. If a Lodge can be opened without the Bible being present because the Lodge is held in a particular country, why may it not, because of the religious faith of the members constituting a particular Lodge? Can the

geographical situation of the Lodge affect the question to such extent as to substitute a book teaching one system of religion for the Bible, teaching, as we confidently believe, the true system, whereas the theological opinions of the members of a particular Lodge work no such results. Will it be denied that the Masonic Order, if not of Christian, is at least of Hebrew origin, and if so, is not its God the God of the Bible, and its great light the revelation of Himself? Then can any other book than the Bible be displayed on its altar, and those there assembled be a Lodge of Masons? But waive this, still the Order, if not established at the building of Solomon's Temple, to assert which is not our purpose, founds itself on the building of that Temple, avows its symbolism thence, breathes the spirit of those who builded it, and teaches the existence of and faith in Him who was worshipped there. Does any other book lay a like foundation for its symbology or teach like doctrines? Does any other profess to be a revelation of the God of Israel's Temple? How is much of the Order's teachings to be explained except upon the assumption that the Bible is true, and by reference to that which it discloses? This being true, it would appear to be most incongruous to teach through the ceremonies and symbols of the Order the great doctrines of redemption through vicarious offering and the resurrection of the body, while upon the altar lay a book teaching doctrines repugnant thereto. But further than this. If it be true either that the Order had its origin at the building of the Temple, or subsequently, but is predicated upon legends relating thereto; if the legend of the Tyrian builder be an essential part of Masonry, then the Bible must be the standard of Masonic faith, and, if the presence of that standard of faith be essential to the regularity of a Masonic Lodge, there can be no Masonic Lodge in the absence, at least, of the Old Testament.

"It may be contended that this view destroys or makes impossible the universality of the Order. If so, it cannot be helped, but we think not, and think that no term has ever been more misunderstood or more frequently misapplied than this. What is meant by the 'universality of Masonry?' Certainly not that it exists in every place. We know there are many places and many tribes where it is not known. Rather is it not a term intended to express the adaptability of the Order to all climes and classes? Does it not signify that within its ample area, beneath its broad canopy, forgetting differences of nationalities, recognising the fatherhood of God, emphasizing the brotherhood of man, about a common altar erected for the exemplification of the one, for the adoration of the other, the nations of the earth *may* gather and hold converse through its universal, mysterious language? Plainly, is not Masonry of the Bible, and without the Bible would we have had Masonry? Another institution we might have had, and possibly very good, but not Masonry."

The *Gran Dieta* of Mexico does not commend itself to our Brother, and he advances an argument against the recognition of that body which we do not remember to have seen in print before. It is as follows:

"But there is one other matter which, to our surprise, has not been urged by those opposing recognition, nor, apparently, noticed by those advocating it. It is, we think, universally admitted that a lodge cannot be opened in the absence of the Great Lights. Or,

to express the fact in another way, unless the Great Lights are displayed, whatever may have been the ceremony used, and regardless of the character of those present, there is there no Masonic Lodge. Now, during the time the Bible, one of the Great Lights, was excluded from the lodges in Mexico, there were doubtless, many who were made acquainted with the Masonic ceremonies, and are now considered as Masons and members of lodges, but will any, the least informed, contend that these men are Masons? It is impossible that they could be. No lodge was in session, and, in the absence of the Great Lights, no lodge could have been in session when the ceremonies were being performed, hence they are not Masons in any sense. In the first place, how are these to be discovered, and in the next, how are they to be dealt with when discovered? They were not merely irregularly made and subject to being healed. They were never made Masons at all. What the number of such is we do not know, but this pertinent question is suggested: Will Grand Lodges recognize the Gran Dieta and thereby recognize as Masons among those who have been regularly made, doubtless, a considerable body of men who are not Masons and who have no right whatever to be present within a tyled lodge? And, not only so, but by the act of recognition extend an invitation to visit regular lodges to men who cannot truthfully take the test oath. This, we think, is a serious obstacle to recognition of the Gran Dieta Symbolica."

Brother Clark believes that "no coercion should be resorted to for the purpose of compelling non-affiliates to seek Lodge membership;" does not agree with the opinion expressed by us last year as to the propriety of allowing visitors to vote, and promises to give us his opinion on the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington *re* Negro Masonry. We do not, however, find anything from his pen on that subject in the present volume.

On the cipher question he says that his opinions have recently undergone a change, and that he is now "almost persuaded" that such ciphers are a violation of the O. B. We venture to transcribe his remark on this subject also:

"Careful study of the clause denominated by Brother Drummond as the qualifying clause, leads us to the conclusion that so far from qualifying or limiting the inhibition preceding it, in fact emphasizes it, and makes it absolute. We presume that the word "unlawfully" leads Brother Drummond, as it once lead us, to conclude that it qualifies the language preceding, and authorised the Grand Lodge to make it lawful by removing the inhibition, but so far from this being true, the pivotal word in the clause—the word that governs and dominates it—is not the word "unlawfully," but is the word "thus," or as is sometimes used, a word of similar import, the word "thereby," preceding the word "unlawfully." Let any Brother repeat the second clause of the O. B. and strongly emphasize this word, and he will have no further trouble, we think. "Emphasis," it is said, "is exegesis."

We regret to note that Brother Clark's name does not

appear on the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the current year.

Kentucky has 464 Lodges with a membership of 18,402, a loss during the year of 62.

M. W. JAS. E. WILHELM,
Grand Master.

R. W. H. B. GRANT,
Grand Secretary.

LOUISIANA, 1899.

The Eighty-seventh Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana was opened in the City of New Orleans on the 13th of February, 1899.

The Grand Master renders a satisfactory account of his stewardship during the past year, hoping that the Brethren will admit his honesty of purpose if they do not agree with all he has done.

For various reasons—the low prices of farm produce ; excessive rains, and the pestilence—the Craft has not increased much numerically. Two well-known Brethren passed away during the year in the persons of Brother S. M. Hart, Past Grand Junior Warden, and Brother D. H. Hayes, Past District Deputy Grand Master.

The Grand Master notes with pleasure the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru in restoring the Bible to its altars ; lays before Grand Lodge the invitation to participate in the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of Washington, and draws attention to the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington.

The rulings recorded by the Grand Master are only three, and all are in accord with common sense and doubtless with Louisiana Masonic law, as the Committee on Jurisprudence approved of them. They are substantially as follows :

1. The members of an investigating committee cannot report by proxy, but must submit a report personally by word of mouth or in writing.

2. The step-daughter of a Master Mason is as much entitled to Masonic protection as his own daughter would be.

3. A person with only one foot is not qualified to receive the degrees.

The Grand Master is concerned over the finances of Grand Lodge. It appears that their expenses are greater than their income, and some means have to be devised to increase the latter, as the former are now down to a rock-bottom basis. He suggests that the annual dues be increased one dollar, which will place them on a sound footing and ensure the financial safety of the Temple. The Grand Lodge agreed to this suggestion to the extent of making a special assessment of one dollar *per capita* this year, and assessments of fifty cents *per capita* for the next four years, with the proviso that should the state of their finances warrant it, the assessment may be discontinued before the expiration of that period.

R. W. Brother Richard Lambert, Grand Secretary, presents a full and complete account of his official acts. During the year, according to instructions, he issued dispensations to three new Lodges and charters to two more. Several dispensations were issued to authorize Lodges to elect officers to replace others who had died or otherwise vacated their chairs. In this respect the Grand Lodge of Louisiana differs from most, the general custom being that upon the death of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden rules the Lodge for the remainder of his term.

The Louisiana Relief Lodge submits its annual report, and incidentally mentions the fact that if it is to continue its work, it must be supplied with funds. It expended during the year the sum of \$1,159.25, and performed a large amount of relief work which is not expressible in dollars and cents.

Two Lodges under dispensation were granted charters, and the incoming Grand Master was requested to investigate the desirability of organizing two other Lodges under dispensation.

Acting upon a special report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, the Grand Lodge resumed inter-

course with the Grand Lodge of Peru ; suspended fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington ; decided to participate in the Washington Memorial Observances, and recognized the Grand Lodges of New Zealand and of Tasmania. We regret the absence of a review of Foreign Correspondence.

The chartered Lodges number 132, and under dispensation, 1. The membership of the Lodges making returns is 5,415.

M. W. A. C. ALLEN,
Grand Master.

R. W. RICHARD LAMBERT,
Grand Secretary.

MAINE, 1898.

The Seventy-ninth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maine met in the City of Portland, on the 3rd of May, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Brother Joseph A. Locke, presented a very excellent address. Peace and harmony prevail within the Jurisdiction and without, except for the disturbed relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru. Several Brethren eminent in the Craft have died during the year, their names being fraternally placed on record by the Grand Master.

For good reasons, seven dispensations were granted to allow of petitions being received and acted upon in less time than that required by law, and for good reasons also no doubt, several of the same kind were refused. On this subject the Grand Master says :

"Brethren, this granting of dispensations is a bad practice, and I do not believe that the fraternity, *as a rule*, is benefited by the admission of a candidate who must be hurried through. Three times out of four you will find that such a candidate is going away, and then for the first time he thinks he may want friends, may fall into distress, get into trouble, and knowing from report that there are Masons everywhere, and none others so ready to assist, he makes up his mind that he must be a Mason. What is the result? The lodge must hold special meetings, a dispensation must be obtained,

he is hurried through and departs with no knowledge of the principles and teachings of the Order, most times without sufficient information to enable him to work himself into a lodge if he receives such an examination as ought always to be given. That information and knowledge which he should have received and learned while receiving the degrees is never learned, and usually you will find that he never after takes any interest in Masonry unless it be for an entirely selfish purpose.

"In this connection I wish to urge upon the Masters of our several lodges, and especially those who have heretofore been careless in this respect, that it is their duty to see to it that the candidate is well-informed in the lessons of the preceding degree before he is further advanced, that he may not hereafter blame you for neglect of duty. Appoint some brother who shall have the educational charge of the candidate in the interim."

Three Lodges were started under dispensation ; two new Halls were dedicated, and three conventions for instruction in the work were held. A number of decisions were rendered, most of them, as usual, being already covered by the Constitution. Those noted in the address do not bring forward any new point, nor any rule of practice differing from that obtaining in British Columbia.

In his comments on the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru, the Grand Master takes a different view of the Great Light from Brother Clark, of Kentucky. He says :

"Some book, believed by the Masons of any particular religion to contain the revealed will of God, has always been upon the altar of every true Masonic Lodge. That book, from the earliest history of Masonry, has been called the "Book of the Law." The five books of Moses, or the Pentateuch, were called by the Jews "The Law," because they included the law of God which Moses received on Mount Sinai. Masonry was not founded on a mere sentimentality, lacking an underlying principle to give it firmness and stability, but on historical facts contained in the Old Testament. Hence the book containing "The Law," or the "Book of the Law," as the foundation and source of our faith and of our works, has ever been upon the Masonic altars. In a lodge of Israelites, it is the Pentateuch; in a lodge of Moslems, the Koran; in a lodge of Brahmans, the Vedas; and in a lodge of Christians, the Old and New Testaments. That "Book of the Law" upon the Masonic altar must represent the symbolism of the Divine will to man, otherwise the foundation of our faith is removed, and there will be no beacon light to guide us on to "Truth."

"One of the most distinguished Masons in this country, who has travelled extensively in foreign lands, in a letter informs me that he has seen both the Bible and the Koran upon the same Masonic altar at the same time.

"No book or other law can be substituted for this "Book of the Law," and an attempt to remove the same is an attempt to tear out and wrench from its foundation one of the principal corner stones

upon which the superstructure of Freemasonry is founded. No other law can be substituted for it, not even the Constitution of a Grand Lodge, for that only represents the work of man."

The District Deputy Grand Masters report the general condition of the Craft to be good. The District Deputy Grand Master of the Fifth District commends the Master of one of the Lodges for that "At the moment the Lodge was notified to meet, he called to order," a practice which we would like to see generally adopted. He of the Thirteenth District reports that upon his visit to one of the Lodges, "Having no one to vouch for me here, I had to pass an examination," a somewhat similar experience to that of a Past Grand Master of this Jurisdiction (B. C.) who, when Grand Master, submitted to an examination upon the occasion of one of his official visits.

The Committee on Grievances and Appeals appears to have enjoyed a sinecure during the year, a state of affairs for which the Craft in Maine is to be congratulated. The Committee on Jurisprudence announce that the decisions reported by the Grand Master last year have all met with their approval. They also recommend that the applications for recognition of the Grand Orient of Belgium, and of the Grand Orient Lusitano Unido, of Portugal, be left in the hands of the committee until next year. The action of the Grand Master in suspending relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru was approved.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence fully maintains the high reputation of M. W. Brother Josiah H. Drummond as a Masonic writer. He reviews in his usual able manner the doings of forty-nine Grand Lodges including British Columbia for 1897.

Brother Drummond does not approve of the law making an examination in the work of the third degree a pre requisite to membership, and we agree with him. During the time this law has been in force in this Jurisdiction it has caused endless trouble and annoyance.

Of ciphers, Brother Drummond says :

"No one will attempt to question that it is a Masonic crime to 'betray the lodge' or divulge its secrets, but the difficulty with our brother's reasoning is that ciphers do not betray the lodge or divulge

the secrets ; that is, the original cipher and so far as we know those which are generally used; and there is the very point, and where "the qualifying clause" comes in ; the crime is not in *making* a cipher but in *divulging* the secrets, and if a cipher does not divulge the secrets, it is not a violation of a Masonic law. This point the opponents of the use of ciphers entirely overlook, and on that account their arguments do not amount to anything. The idea that we should attempt to justify the production and use of anything that would divulge Masonic secrets is simply absurd, and when our Brethren who are opposed to ciphers will come down and discuss the real question at issue, their arguments may be of some avail, but until then let them hold their tongues about the "violation of obligations." Bro. Stevenson brings the point that we have been trying to make, squarely to the front, and really admits that if ciphers do not divulge the secrets of Masonry they are not prohibited. Our good brother must not deem that we have any feeling in "his matter because we speak so earnestly, but we have been endeavoring for several years to get the opponents of ciphers to tell whether they hold that the *production* of them is the offence or *divulging* the secrets of Masonry, and none of them have met the issue."

This question is rather an unsuitable one to discuss in the pages of a report of this kind, but, while we regret to differ from so eminent an authority, we have no hesitation in saying that we believe that the *production* of these ciphers is quite as much a Masonic offence as in *divulging* any of the secrets of Masonry. A cipher must at least be intelligible to the person who made it, and no cipher has yet, to our knowledge, been invented which could not be deciphered with a little patience and perseverance.

Brother Drummond is not of those who believe that the American system of independent State Grand Lodges is the only system which has any right to exist. He thinks that the system by which the Mexican Grand Lodges are federated under the *Gran Dieta* is much better adapted to the requirements of that country than the American plan would be.

There is more, much more, in this admirable report which we would willingly notice were it not for the fact that space is running short.

Maine has 192 working Lodges with 22,191 members, a gain during the year of 106.

M. W. JOSEPH A. LOCKE,
Grand Master.

R. W. STEPHEN BERRY,
Grand Secretary.

MANITOBA, 1898.

On the 8th of June, 1898, the Twenty-third Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba was opened in the City of Winnipeg, the Grand Master, M. W. Thos. Robinson, presiding.

His address begins by an acknowledgment of the ever-watchful care of our Almighty Father, and goes on to pay a fraternal tribute to the memory of departed Brethren, among whom are R. W. Albert H. Van Etten, Past District Deputy Grand Master, and V. W. Joseph Hensell, Past Grand Steward. The "Diamond Jubilee" called forth an enthusiastic Address of Congratulation, and is to be more permanently commemorated by the erection of a "Jubilee" wing in connection with the Winnipeg General Hospital, one ward of which, it is proposed, shall be furnished by the Masonic fraternity.

The Grand Master reminds the Brethren of the intimate connection between their Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, the first Lodge in Manitoba, Northern Light Lodge, at Pembina, being subject to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. This Lodge was afterwards removed to Fort Garry, but owing to local troubles, soon ceased to exist. Some years later Prince Rupert's Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and this, with Lisgar Lodge and Ancient Landmarks Lodge, which were chartered soon afterwards, united to form the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

The Grand Master visited as many Lodges as his other engagements would permit, and on these occasions was impressed with the fact that the Brethren needed "more light." He endeavored to disseminate Masonic knowledge by means of lectures which he delivered as opportunity offered, in which good work he was ably assisted by M. W. the Rev. J. Dallas O'Meara and M.W. Brother D. J. Goggin.

He was particularly fortunate in that no appeals or complaints from Lodges or individuals were brought before him during the year.

His decisions are as follows :

1. An applicant for the degrees of Masonry was not debarred from admission to the Craft through having lost his second, third, and fourth fingers on his right hand.

2. Degrees or general business cannot be conferred or transacted at Festival Meetings.

3. It is not the business of a Lodge to interfere in personal disputes between members, unless after careful consideration, it is quite clear that the welfare of the Lodge and the Craft in general demands investigation.

4. A brother sold grape wine under the impression that it was a temperance drink, and he was convicted of selling liquor without a license. I ruled such case to fall within the distinction made by the W. Bro. Mackay in his book on Masonic Jurisprudence, between a wrong *malum in se* and *malum prohibitum*. I decided that it was not an evil in itself and therefore not a case for the interference of a Lodge. At the same time I intimated that it was very difficult to draw a definite line on questions of this kind, that it was largely a matter of degree, and wise judgment and discretion must be used for the benefit of the Craft in regard to cases which might lead to any scandal or disgrace.

5. Business must be done in the third degree. Lodges doing Canadian work must regularly open in the first, second and third degrees, and regularly close down in each degree. Where there is any degree to be conferred, the short form of opening and closing may be used in going from one degree to another for such purpose.

6. After a brother has received the first degree, he is entitled to receive the second and third, unless a charge properly substantiated, is brought against him, or the Worshipful Master feels justified in directing that a complaint be regularly instituted, but the brother should not be refused such degrees upon indefinite charges and insinuations, which do not commend themselves as sufficient to the Worshipful Master for refusing to confer the degrees.

7. That a Lodge cannot legally claim dues in arrears when through its own fault all the degrees have not been conferred.

The question of physical qualification seems to have given the Grand Master some trouble, for he goes into the matter at length, quoting from the Old Constitutions and from a letter from R. W. Brother W. J. Hughan, the eminent Masonic scholar. The conclusion he comes to is, that some of the American authorities have construed the "perfect youth" too strictly, while the British Grand Lodges are not strict enough. Certainly it is contrary to the usual practice in this country to accept "one who had lost his left foot," or one who has a cork leg, yet the possession of such defects, we are informed, does not prevent a candidate from being admitted in Great Britain, and the British Grand Lodges, as the origin of all existing Masonry, should be posted as to the meaning of the Old Constitutions.

He also deals at some length with the *status* of the late so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario. There has been some difference of opinion among the Grand Masters of Manitoba as to the procedure to be followed by persons belonging to Lodges subordinate to this body who desire to connect themselves with regular Lodges in Manitoba. Grand Master Robinson expresses the opinion that they should apply to the Grand Lodge of Canada to be healed, after which they can present a certificate from the Grand Secretary of that Jurisdiction with their application and be received into any Lodge in Manitoba.

It does not appear to us that this is a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. These persons were members of a clandestine Grand Lodge and as such had no Masonic *status* whatever. The healing process, as we understand it, is applicable only to Masons irregularly made in a regular Lodge, and consequently the proper course to pursue with the persons mentioned above would be to treat them as profanes applying for initiation.

The Grand Master "praises with faint damns" the District Deputy Grand Masters in the following sentence :

"I would recommend that the rank of Right Worshipful Past District Deputy Grand Master be conferred upon the following Brethren, although I do not think they are all justly entitled to it."

It would not have surprised us if, after that, the District Deputy Grand Masters had declined the distinguished honor.

The V. W. Grand Secretary furnishes a *very* complete report of his work for the year. He gives a list of dispensations granted, among which we regret to notice several for the conferring of degrees "out of time," the reasons in each case being very trivial. As Grand Librarian, Brother Scott informs us that many additions have been made to the Library. The list of new books includes several on other than Masonic subjects ; history and even fiction being well represented ; 1,130 volumes have been added in the last four years, but the Librarian complains that no great interest is taken in the library. We are surprised at this, and also at his statement that the reading room, which is supplied with a variety of papers and magazines, is not popular with the fraternity.

The Committee on the State of Masonry deals principally with the reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters, and finds a good deal of fault with these officers for the manner in which they have performed—or have not performed—their work. While it is advisable to select for this office men who have the time and money to devote to it, it must be remembered that

“The best laid schemes of mice and men
Gang aft agley.”

and that while a Brother may accept the office with an honest intention to perform its duties faithfully, circumstances may arise which, without any fault on the part of the officer, may render it quite impossible to give it the attention it deserves.

The Committee on Benevolence recommend the formation of a fund, the interest on which shall be devoted to the support of aged and disabled Masons. They propose that the fund shall consist of

1st. Any special funds that have been set aside by Grand Lodge;

2nd. A special grant of not less than \$50.00 annually, and

3rd. Subscriptions from subordinate Lodges.

Brethren who object to “tampering with the Constitution” will be interested to note that at this Communication something like 125 amendments to the Constitution were adopted. The trouble with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba (and with our own) is that it comprises a lot of matter such as trial procedure, rules of order, and By-laws, which should have no place in a Constitution at all. A committee was also appointed to further revise and consolidate the Constitution and have the same ready for printing at the next Annual Communication.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

Fifty-nine chartered Lodges work in the Jurisdiction with a membership of 2,669, the gain for the year being 26.

M. W. GEO. B. MURPHY,
Grand Master.

R. W. WILLIAM G. SCOTT,
Grand Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS, 1898.

Quarterly Communications of this Grand Lodge were held June 8th, September 14th and December 14th, 1898. At that on June 8th, the Commissioners of Trials dealt with a number of cases. One was the case of a Brother who, in his capacity of Deputy Sheriff, had the handling of sums of money belonging to different people, which he deposited in his own name in a bank. Having been called upon to account for certain of these moneys, he made default, was charged with embezzlement, convicted and sentenced to prison. The Commissioners find that the Brother had previously borne an excellent character, and that many attorneys with whom he had had business relations would be willing to trust him again, believing that his unfortunate position was due more to careless and unbusiness-like methods of conducting his affairs than to any criminal intent. Under these circumstances they believe that charity should control their actions, and recommend that instead of being expelled he should be indefinitely suspended.

Relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru were broken off, and the Grand Lodge of New Zealand was officially recognized.

The corner stone of the new Masonic Temple was laid by the Grand Master, the ceremonies, which were exceedingly interesting and instructive, being given at length.

At the Quarterly, held in September, an interesting biographical sketch of the late Brother Charles Levi Woodbury was read, which, with an excellent portrait of the distinguished Brother, is printed in the Proceedings.

Five hundred dollars were appropriated for charity.

Several Special Communications were held during the quarter. Three Lodges celebrated their "centennial"; corner stones were laid and halls dedicated. At the conclusion of each of these exercises, "banquets" or "collations" were the order of the day.

On the 5th of July, 1898, a Special Communication was held in the City of Boston, for the purpose of laying to rest, with Masonic honors, the remains of the late Brother Woodbury.

At the Quarterly of December 14th, the Grand Master delivered the Annual Address. He reminds the Brethren that the Grand Lodge Officers have enjoyed no sinecure during the year; congratulates the Grand Lodge because, with one exception, there are no vacant chairs; details the special communications and other functions at which he assisted during the year, and gives a list of dispensations issued. He also gives a detailed statement of the finances of the Grand Lodge, which shows the different funds to be in a healthy condition. The amount expended on the new Temple during the year was \$184,646.27.

The Committee to whom was referred the matter of "Negro Masonry" made a lengthy report, going exhaustively into the subject, and arriving at a conclusion totally at variance with the Grand Lodge of Washington. They are less rabid than some similar committees, for after pointing out where they consider the Grand Lodge of Washington to be wrong, and after protesting against its action, they content themselves with offering the following resolution:

"Resolved, That we fraternally demand of the Grand Lodge of Washington a speedy reconsideration of its entire action upon the subject of "Negro Masonry" in the United States."

The Stated Communication for the purpose of installing the officers was held on the 27th of December, 1898, when the several officers were inducted into their respective chairs.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Sereno D. Nickerson, presented a brief report, after which the Brethren were called

from labor to refreshment, and proceeded to the Banquet Hall, where the Feast of St. John was celebrated in becoming manner. As is customary, the speeches delivered at the feast are reported *in extenso*, with the result of making one wish he had been there.

M. W. CHARLES C. HUTCHINSON,
Grand Master.

R. W. SERENO D. NICKERSON,
Grand Secretary.

MICHIGAN, 1899.

The volume containing the record of the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge for 1899 come to hand in the same attractive style as Brother Conover's previous reports. The front of the volume is adorned with a handsome portrait of M. W. James Bradley, Grand Master, 1898, while among the memorial pages are the presentments of M. W. Daniel Striker and R. W. Foster Pratt, two eminent Michigan Masons who departed this life during the year.

The Fifty-fifth Annual Communication was held in the City of Port Huron, commencing on the 24th of January, 1899, M. W. James Bradley presided, and British Columbia's Representative, Brother Reuben C. Webb, was in attendance.

The Grand Master requires *fifty-two* pages in which to relate his official acts. He refers appropriately to the deaths of the two brethren mentioned above, as well as to those of other Jurisdictions who have crossed the river during the year.

Two Lodges received their charters, and two were started under dispensation; several Halls were dedicated, and a number of corner stones were laid. The Grand Master granted several dispensations "to confer the third degree without waiting for a lunar month to elapse," and "to ballot on petitions without waiting the usual time," but refused one to allow a "bold soldier boy" to get the three degrees in one night.

The difficulty of keeping rituals under control is shown by the fact that four Lodges had new ones issued to them—having lost the old ones.

The number of question submitted to the Grand Master this year did not come up to the average. Still, he records eighteen, and of these we note the following:

5. Q. Our oldest member dead; was suspended for non-payment of dues; has paid up; neglected to reinstate. Can we give him Masonic burial?

A. If he stands suspended on your books at the present time, you cannot give him Masonic burial.

9. Q. Several Brother members of Lodges in Indiana are here frequently in connection with their business, and have visited our Lodge often during the past few years, and are very much impressed with the Michigan work, and are desirous to know if we can secure for them a Michigan ritual, which they desire to bring up for adoption before the Grand Lodge of Indiana, and would ask what action is possible in meeting their wishes. Can we obtain for them a ritual for this purpose?

A. You cannot obtain for them a ritual. If the request should come from the Grand Secretary of Indiana, it might be granted, but our regulations regarding our ritual are very strict, and I could not grant permission for you to secure one for the parties named.

10. Q. Can we make one or two copies of the key furnished us by the Grand Lodge for the use of other officers than the Master?

A. No. The only key authorised by the Grand Lodge is the one furnished by the Grand Secretary, and it is not permissible to make or use copies of the same.

It seems rather hard that a Lodge may not give a Masonic funeral to a Brother in the position of him referred to in No. 5, *if it wants to*. While there can be no doubt that the Brother died without any *right* to a Masonic funeral, it is surely the most elementary Masonic charity for a Lodge to overlook such a fault as the non-payment of dues, and as a matter of courtesy accompany the Brother's remains to their last resting place.

Nos. 9 and 10 speak for themselves. If, however, the Brethren from Indiana or the "other officers" wished to acquire the work, why not sit down and learn it *viva voce* from the Master or some other competent Brother? On the subject of keys, the Grand Master says:

"When this Grand Lodge in 1894 authorised a ritual to be issued in each Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction to aid them in learning and

practising the esoteric work of our Order, a resolution was adopted calling for the surrender and destruction of all other keys.

"It having come to my knowledge that this resolution had not had the desired effect, and that the brethren in some of the lodges were still using works claiming to be "Masonic Keys," I ordered a circular to be issued calling attention to these facts and ordering that any member of a Lodge having such a key and refusing to surrender it should have charges preferred against him for wilful disobedience of Grand Lodge Edicts, and warning all Lodges if the further use of such "Keys" or "Rituals" is permitted in any Lodges it would cause the immediate arrest of the charter on such fact becoming known.

"While I had been informed that these keys were being used, I was greatly surprised at the number of letters I received from Worshipful Masters acknowledging the receipt of the circular, and stating that they had received and destroyed several keys in accordance with same, in some cases reporting that they had taken up as many as five in one Lodge, but do not know that the brethren are entirely to blame when we find the W. M. of a Lodge doing a wholesale business in these, as in the case of Brother Tuxworth, of Lewiston Lodge, and then stating that he did not know that he was doing anything contrary to Grand Lodge Regulations."

The Grand Master declined to sanction an "Appeal for aid" for the Brethren of Cuba; was not able to do as much visiting as he had intended, but thoroughly enjoyed the visits he did make, including one to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Canada. Under the heading "Domestic Troubles," the Grand Master makes reference to several matters which came before him officially. The "printed key" gave him some trouble, a W. M. of one of the Lodges procuring them wholesale and retailing them to the members of his Lodge. In view of the Grand Master's decision No. 9, one might wonder where the W. M. got them.

The Grand Master gives a list of the spurious Lodges of Ohio; submits the correspondence between himself and the M. W. Grand Master of New York *re* the maintenance of the widow of a deceased Brother; states that the question of perpetual jurisdiction had arisen in two instances, where Lodges of Indiana and Colorado had accepted and made Masons of material rejected by Michigan Lodges, and refers to the subject of "Negro Masonry." Because, probably, of the success of the negroes in Washington, he was the recipient of a letter, similar in its purport to that sent to the Grand Master of Washington, from three persons in Detroit. The Grand Master goes into the subject at some length, and comes to the conclusion that these persons are

illegal and clandestine, and should not be recognized. He also received a communication from the officers of the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico, asking for recognition.

He calls the attention of the Grand Lodge to the necessity for a fire-proof vault in the Grand Secretary's office—a want which, we should think, would be sufficiently apparent; suggests the practice of a little economy by reducing the number of Proceedings printed, and by condensing the reports of special Communications, which may be very well, but we think he mistakes when he recommends the abbreviation, or even abolition of the Report on Foreign Correspondence. No doubt it is a great deal of work for the Grand Secretary, who is the writer of the Report, and no doubt it is a certain expense. There is equally no doubt in our mind that a report such as that prepared by Brother Conover is one of the best, in fact, the best, ways of educating the Brethren on the Masonic questions of the day. If the Brethren do not do themselves the pleasure of reading the report—as the Frenchman said, “Dats loss for you.”

The report of the Grand Secretary is a full and complete account of his work for the year. The Grand Lodge Registry, which is being prepared under his direction, is making satisfactory progress. The Grand Lodge Library, which is also in his keeping, is not a large one, and contains but few books other than the Proceedings of other Masonic bodies. The returns from the Lodges were this year the best on record, but even yet are not complete

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence reported that in view of the fact that the Grand Lodge of Peru had restored the Bible to its altars, they recommend the resumption of fraternal relations with that Grand Lodge, to which the Grand Lodge agreed.

At the last Annual Communication a number of amendments to the Constitution were proposed, which were intended to furnish a remedy for the evils of non-payment of dues and non-affiliation. The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom they were referred, having duly considered the amendments, came to the conclusion that the payment of dues was a matter between the Lodges and their members. They very properly say:

"It may happen many times that a Brother cannot pay his dues just at the time they become due, yet he would not want them remitted, and by so doing have it said that he was not able to pay his dues, or that he was an object of charity ; and if the Master had a discretion in the matter, further time in which to pay his dues could be granted the Brother and thereby the Lodge would receive his dues and he would not be humiliated."

Respecting the non-affiliation question they recommend several amendments to the existing law. The second proposed amendment provides that a Brother shall not be permitted to dimit from one Lodge until he presents a certificate that he has been elected to membership in another. Amendment No. 3 relieves the Lodge of any Grand Lodge tax upon affiliating Brethren, and amendment No. 4 abolishes the affiliation fee. The fifth amendment provides that any Brother in the Jurisdiction holding a dimit, who fails, within a year, to petition some Lodge for membership, shall be placed in the position of a suspended Mason and treated accordingly, and the last amendment allows a Brother to "withdraw" from the Lodge, when he shall not be regarded as a member of the fraternity, but may rejoin the Lodge from which he withdrew at any time upon a favorable majority vote.

Brother Oldfield, of the Committee, presented a minority report, taking exception to amendments Nos. 4 and 5. He considers that the fourth amendment interferes with the rights of the Lodges, and fears that it would open the Lodge doors to a large number of Brethren who would be better (for the Lodge) outside. The fifth amendment he considers particularly objectionable, as having a tendency to force into Lodges members who prefer to remain out.

We agree with the Committee that the door of the Lodge should be thrown wide open to the Brother who desires to join, and that no restriction should be placed in the way of a Brother who desires to transfer his membership from one Lodge to another, excepting the restriction of the ballot. We do not anticipate that there would be any such trouble as anticipated by Brother Oldfield, viz., that the wealthier Lodges would be overrun by members who took their degrees in some poorer (and cheaper) Lodge. He asks:

'Yet a Lodge should be homogeneous, and has a perfect right

to confine its membership to a certain class. How could it do so if it were liable to be swamped with applications for membership?"

How is going to do so in any case? The only way in which we see that it can be done is by a judicious use of the ballot, which surely is as applicable in the case of an affiliating member as in that of an applicant for initiation.

We agree with Brother Oldfield, however, that the fifth amendment is an undesirable one. What advantage can a Lodge, or the Fraternity, expect to derive from members compelled against their wills to affiliate? We have not yet seen a convincing argument in favor of compulsory affiliation, while, as Brother Oldfield says,

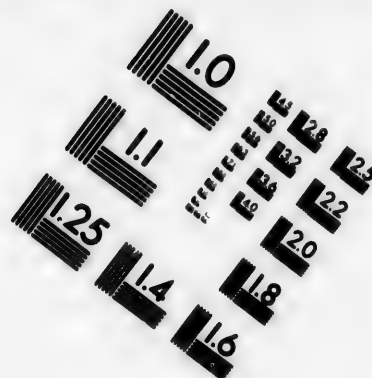
"All arguments of taking in none but voluntary applicants are arguments for keeping none but those who voluntarily stay."

The dispute between the Grand Lodge of Michigan and the Grand Lodges of Colorado and Indiana with regard to the acceptance by the last two mentioned of material rejected by the first, was referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who reported that in their opinion such action did not warrant any interference with the fraternal relations at present existing, but suggest that rejected material of Michigan accepted in other Jurisdictions might be refused recognition. In this way the Brother, ignorant of the laws of different Jurisdictions, is treated as an offender, while the Lodge which committed the error is not punished at all.

The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington re "Negro Masonry," and the request of the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico for recognition, were referred to a committee, who, on request, were granted until the next Annual Communication in which to make report.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, from the pen of the accomplished Grand Secretary, is a combination of the usual style of report and that originated, we believe, by the late Brother J. Q. A. Fellows. He gives a brief account of the doings of the different Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1898; a digest of the principal decisions given by the various Grand Masters during the year; the sayings of other reviewers concerning the Grand Lodge of Michigan; and concludes with extracts from the





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addresses of some of the Grand Masters. Another and interesting feature of the Report is a table showing the cost of running the Grand Lodges on this continent, which we have ventured to reproduce (condensed) for the information of our Brethren.

Michigan has 388 Lodges, with 40,387 members, a net gain during the year of 830.

M. W. FRANK T. LODGE,
Grand Master.

R. W. JEFFERSON S. CONOVER,
Grand Secretary.

MINNESOTA, 1899.

A fine steel engraved portrait of M. W. Alonzo T. Stebbins, Grand Master of Minnesota, faces the title page of the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge for 1899.

The Forty-sixth Annual Communication was held in the City of St. Paul, beginning on the 11th of January, 1899, 196 Lodges being represented.

In his address the Grand Master greets the Brethren fraternally, acknowledging the protective care of the Almighty during the year. He chronicles the death of Brother Charles T. Stearns, who was the last of the original founders of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

Two Lodges were constituted, and two organized under dispensation during the year.

A petition for authority to open an "Army Lodge" was after due consideration, refused.

Only four decisions are recorded, all being, we believe, in accord with general Masonic practice. The fourth we copy to show the extraordinary questions which may be asked.

"Q. A Brother Master Mason petitioned our Lodge for membership. Before his petition was acted on by the Lodge the Brother died. The neglect to act upon his petition promptly was the fault

of the Lodge. Do you know of any way that the deceased Brother's name can get on our records ?

"A. No."

The Grand Master acknowledges the assistance of a good corps of District Deputies, and for the general information read the report of the District Deputy of the Twenty-ninth District, which consisted of a row of asterisks.

He dedicated one Masonic Hall; declined to countenance the relief scheme of "The Craftsman"; recommends the withdrawal of the edict of non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and says that, *mirabile dictu*, he was not asked to lay a single corner stone.

On account of the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington he had been urged to suspend friendly relations with that body, but refused, referring the matter to the Grand Lodge for action.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Thos. Montgomery, presents his tenth annual report, and gives the form to be filled by the District Deputy Grand Master after visiting a Lodge. It is a most comprehensive affair. Incidentally, he states that it is just thirty years since he entered the Grand Lodge as the Junior Warden of his Lodge.

A considerable amount of business was transacted, but mainly of local interest.

An excellent oration by Brother Henry R. Adams—the subject being "Love"—was one of the features of the Communication, and deservedly preserved in the appendix.

Brother Irving Todd again contributes a most interesting Report on Foreign Correspondence. He reviews in his usual felicitous manner the doings of fifty-six Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1898. Brother Todd is an adept in the art of condensing—a faculty which we envy him.

Bound with the Proceedings is a report of the Proceedings of the Masonic Veteran Association of Minnesota, in-

roduced by an excellent portrait of Geo. R. Metcalf, the President.

According to the returns there are 211 Lodges in Minnesota, with 15,908 members—an increase of 189.

M. W. ALONZO T. STEBBINS,
Grand Master.

R. W. THOS. MONTGOMERY,
Grand Secretary.

MISSOURI, 1898.

A well-executed portrait of M. W. Flavius J. Tygard, Grand Master 1897-98, forms a frontispiece to the volume containing the Proceedings of the Seventy-eighth Annual Communication, which met at St. Louis on the 18th of October, 1898.

Judging from the address, the Grand Master has had a busy year. Several cases occurred, unfortunately, in which it was necessary to discipline Lodges, and two Masters were suspended for intoxication.

What the Grand Master very properly calls "a peculiar condition of affairs" is shown by the following:

At the session of 1897 the Committee on Chartered Lodges stated in their report—

"Texas Lodge No. 177, reports that on October 24th, 1896, it made an Entered Apprentice of Mr. William Clark, a saloon-keeper.

"As shown by its returns, this was done with full knowledge of the facts in the case.

"The Committee cannot understand how any Lodge could so flagrantly violate the law of this Grand Lodge. If they did it through ignorance, they ought not to be entrusted with a charter, or if, as is more probable, they did this knowingly, they are not fit to have a charter——."

The Committee then recommend that the charter of Texas Lodge be arrested, and that the incoming Grand Master investigate the matter with a view of preferring charges against those actively concerned.

The Grand Master proceeded to carry out these recommendations, and caused the charter to be returned to him, whereupon the Master of the Lodge asked the reason of such action, and in reply was furnished with a "copy of all proceedings leading up to the action of the Grand Lodge." He assured the Grand Master that Committee was mistaken, whereupon "an investigation was made at once, which satisfied me that Texas Lodge, No. 177, was not guilty of the charges alleged, but should have been commended for their zeal in complying with the law."

To say the least, it seems a pity that some investigation of this kind was not made in 1897, before they dealt in so harsh a manner with a Lodge which "should have been commended for its zeal."

Dispensations were issued by the Grand Master for the formation of eight new Lodges; one was refused, and an "informal application for permission to organize an Army Lodge was also declined. He had to adjudicate upon the eligibility for membership of several candidates more or less physically imperfect, and decided that applicants with "a leg off at the thigh, right foot off, and with legs off, but using a cork leg," were ineligible. The law was amended at this session, however, making eligible persons who can conform to the ritual with the assistance of artificial members. He also stated that while a man 70 years of age was not barred from membership on that account, he had serious doubts as to the propriety of his admission, and recommended the Lodge not to receive his petition. No doubt the reasons for this statement would be interesting, but the Grand Master does not give them.

Among the Grand Master's decisions we find the following:

1. In 1883 Unionville Lodge recommended the formation of Pollock Lodge on the understanding that the jurisdiction of each Lodge should be limited by the line dividing Putnam and Sullivan counties. Pollock Lodge does not admit this arrangement, but claims fees and dues received by Unionville Lodge from members residing nearer Pollock Lodge.

The Grand Master held that this arrangement was valid up to the time of the complaint made by Pollock Lodge, and that Unionville Lodge is not liable for fees, &c.,

received prior to that date. Also that from that date their respective jurisdictions will be as defined by the Grand Lodge By-laws.

2. A grocer who sells intoxicants is not amenable to the law as a saloon-keeper, but may be charged with unmasonic conduct.

4. (a.) While not actually necessary, it is preferable, that all petitioners for new Lodges should be members of the Jurisdiction.

(b.) It is necessary that a Lodge asked to recommend a Lodge U. D. should be satisfied that all the petitioners for the new lodge are Master Masons in good standing.

(c.) A Brother dimitted from another Jurisdiction may apply for membership regardless of the age of his dimitt.

8. A Brother convicted of a criminal offence is not necessarily guilty of a Masonic offence.

9. A Brother holding a dimitt without privilege, for one year or longer, cannot be present at his trial on charges for unmasonic conduct.

The Committee on Jurisprudence say of No. 1, that the agreement between Unionville and Pollock Lodges, if any existed, was invalid at all times, and they recommend that the decision be not approved. They recommend that No. 8 be not approved. They say:

"We conceive it to be the duty of all Masons to obey the laws of the countries in which they reside, and to be convicted of a criminal offence, or of a crime, is to be adjudged guilty of disobedience of the law. This, we are of opinion, is a Masonic offence, and we think it incompetent to attack the solemn adjudication of a court of law, in a criminal case collaterally in a Masonic Lodge."

The Committee also recommended non-approval of No. 9. We are not acquainted with what is called a "dimitt without privileges," but how any Brother can be tried without being given an opportunity to appear and plead in his own behalf is not apparent to us.

The Springfield, St. Joseph, Kansas City and St. Louis Boards of Relief submit reports showing the total amount expended by them for charity to have been \$1,924.97.

The Grand Secretary, Brother John D. Vincil, presents a very complete report. He is the lightning Grand Secretary. He says:

"The Grand Lodge closed its labors on Thursday, the twenty-first of October, at seven o'clock; on the following Saturday, the

twenty-third, commenced mailing the Grand Lodge Annual, which was pushed to an early completion."

We do not see how it was done, unless most of the work was up before the session.

The Grand Lecturer reports that the Lodges of Instruction held during the year have been productive of much good, and that the various District Lecturers have "performed their duties with signal fidelity." He thinks there are two principal reasons why their services have not been oftener called for: 1st, Neglect on the part of the Worshipful Master to invite the Lecturer to visit them. For this there is no known remedy. 2nd, the fact that the Lodge, on account of its small resources, feels unable to pay the necessary expenses of the Lecturer.

He recommends an appropriation to cover the expenses of the Lecturers in the latter cases, and we venture to suggest that the extension of this principle would be a remedy for the former.

The Grand Lodge voted \$525 in annuities to destitute Brethren and widows, and also \$150 to aid in placing a monument at the grave of Dr. J. W. S. Mitchell, a Past Grand Master of Missouri.

The Committee on Mexican Masonry state that on account of the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, they were unable to prepare a report, and request that the matter be laid over until next year, which was done.

An exceedingly able and interesting Report on Foreign Correspondence is furnished by Brother John D. Vincil, Grand Secretary. Fifty-four Grand Lodges are reviewed, some of them for two years.

British Columbia receives a fraternal notice for both 1897 and 1897. Brother Vincil approves of the ruling of M. W. Brother Charleson on the "physical perfection" matter; commends our Grand Secretary for his able report, and our Grand Chaplain for his excellent sermons, and kindly notices our efforts as a reviewer, for which we beg to offer our thanks.

Of the action of the Grand Master of California in allowing a Lodge to drape its altar with the American flag, Brother Vincil has this to say :

"I yield to no man living in my devotion to the flag of my country, but would enter my solemn protest against taking it out of its legitimate place as an emblem of American liberty, and placing it on the altar of the church or of the Lodge. I have no objection, but rather favor the presence of the banner of the free to be displayed on proper occasions by Masonic bodies. I have even welcomed its presence within the tiled precincts of Masonic Lodges, having its place, not as a part of the paraphernalia of the Body, but as an ensign that we Masons are true to God, to Freemasonry, and to our country."

With which sentiments we heartily agree.

Brother Vincil's views on the subjects of Mexican Masonry and of the cipher ritual have undergone no change, but under Illinois he confesses to a modification of his views upon the subject of the "good-standing" of dimitted Masons. He now agrees with Brother Robbins that a non-affiliate is in good standing so long as he is eligible to petition for affiliation.

The excellent Home maintained by the Masons of Missouri continues to perform its good work, and is in a satisfactory condition financially. The Superintendent reports 107 inmates at the cost of \$14,684.56 current account, and \$6,726.41 on capital account.

M. W. E. F. ALLEN,

Grand Master.

R. W. JOHN D. VINCIL,

Grand Secretary.

MONTANA, 1898.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Communication was held in the City of Helena, on the 14th of September, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Edward C. Day, in his address, refers in strong terms to the tendency of discussing Masonic affairs with profanes, which, he says, is becoming so common as to be a scandal. A dispensation was issued to allow a Lodge to receive a petition from, ballot

for, and if elected, confer the degrees upon, a gentleman leaving Montana for Alaska. It would be interesting to know how long the applicant lived in Montana before he thought of applying for membership, and why he was so suddenly struck with a desire for knowledge. A dispensation was also granted to allow a Lodge "to receive and refer petitions, there being only six members of the Lodge present." Which, we suppose, means that the Grand Master was called upon to legalize the improper action of the Lodge.

Nine decisions are recorded, none of which call for special mention. A number of official visits were made, upon one of which occasions the Grand Master took occasion to present the Grand Secretary, Brother Cornelius Hedges, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, with a "beautiful cut glass inkstand with silver tray, suitably engraved."

The Grand Master states that he has received the offer of a gift of three acres of land for the purpose of either a Masonic Home or Orphan Asylum. He thinks the former is, at present, beyond their means, but thinks that they might undertake the latter. We trust the Brethren of Montana will see their way clear to undertake this good work.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence (Brother Cornelius Hedges) presented a special report, recommending that, as the Grand Lodge of Peru has restored the First Great Light, no further action be taken in the matter, further than to congratulate the Brethren of that Jurisdiction upon the course pursued. They also recommend the recognition of, and exchange of representatives with, the Grand Orient of Belgium and the Grand Lodge of Egypt.

The Committee on Jurisprudence recommend the approval of all the Grand Master's decisions except No. 4, which is as follows:

"The exhibition of the charter in response to the demand of a visiting Brother is a matter of courtesy, and not of right."

They say :

"Your committee are of the opinion that a visiting Brother is entitled to know whether he is visiting a regularly constituted Lodge

or not, and that his demand to see the charter is a right. And the right to demand that it be shown carries with it the right to see it."

Their report was adopted upon division.

The Grand Lodge recognized the invaluable services of its able Grand Secretary by increasing his salary from \$750 to \$1,000 *per annum*.

The volume contains also the records of three Special Communications; one to pay the last honors to the late M. W. Jas. R. Boyce, Sr.; one to lay the corner stone of the University of the State of Montana, and one to dedicate the Hall of Cascade Lodge, No. 34. We are also presented with a remarkably well executed portrait of the retiring Grand Master, M. W. Edward C. Day.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is a document of one hundred and fifty-six pages, written in his most entertaining manner by Brother Cornelius Hedges.

Brother Hedges does not think that "one who could not read or write" is qualified for the office of Worshipful Master; nor does he believe in putting obstacles in the way of Brethren seeking affiliation. Taking occasion from the remarks of Past Grand Master Gillett, of Indiana, he says :

"Though a Son of the American Revolution, we are for an English alliance and want to see the flags of the allied nations float over a navy stronger than that of all other nations combined, proclaiming liberty of person, mind, and conscience to all countries and nations of the old world and the new."

Brother Hedges thinks that the "making at sight" prerogative is much more honored in the breach than in the observance. He agrees with the Grand Master of Nova Scotia that Masonry is too cheap, but does not concur with his suggestion to remedy the matter by raising the entrance fees and abolishing the dues. Brother Hedges well says :

"There are Lodges that do not confer a degree in the year. How are such Lodges to sustain existence ?"

British Columbia is fraternally reviewed for 1897 and 1898. The sermon of our V. W. Grand Chaplain upon each of these occasions is commended. Brother Hedges says he would like to see British Columbia become part of the United States, in order to connect Alaska with the rest of that country. Would it not be better, Brother Hedges, to

take Alaska into the Dominion, and so round off the north-western corner of the continent?

For his own kind words concerning our own humble efforts, Brother Hedges has our sincere thanks.

Montana has forty-two chartered Lodges, and five under dispensation; the membership numbers 2,850, a gain of 144 during the year.

M. W. CHAS. W. POMEROY,
Grand Master.

R. W. CORNELIUS HEDGES,
Grand Secretary.

NEBRASKA, 1898.

With the Annual Proceedings of this Grand Lodge, comes a handsome steel-engraved portrait of M. W. John B. Dinsmore, Grand Master 1897-98, forming a frontispiece to the volume.

The Forty-first Annual Communication was opened in the City of Omaha, on the 15th of June, 1898, the representatives of 219 Lodges being in attendance.

Among the prominent visitors during the session were M. W. Almon R. Dewey, Past Grand Master, R. W. Willis S. Gardner, Past Deputy Grand Master, and Brother Thos. R. Ercanbrack, of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

In the course of his address, after touching briefly upon the losses by death sustained in Nebraska and her sister Jurisdictions, the Grand Master gives his decisions rendered during the year, which are as follows :

1. Is a man who is on a saloon petition a fit man to be made a Mason ? No.
2. Is it unmasonic for a man to sign a saloon petition ? Yes.
4. Could we suspend a Brother who asks in open Lodge to be suspended because he is unable to pay his dues ? Yes.
5. Could we suspend a Brother who verbally requests the Secretary for immediate suspension for non-payment of dues ? No, the request should come to the Lodge in writing, signed by the Brother desiring to be suspended.

Nos. 1 and 2 show how far some Jurisdictions go in the matter of temperance legislation. While, as stated in No. 4, a Lodge could, no doubt, suspend a Brother for non-payment of dues, would it not display more Masonic charity if, in the case of a brother who admits his inability to pay, the dues were remitted?

Among the numerous dispensations granted, we notice only two to enable Lodges to confer degrees in less time than specified in the Constitution. The Grand Master gives his reasons for granting them, but, in our opinion, the mere fact of a candidate leaving the Jurisdiction is not a good reason for hurry in matters of this kind.

Two Lodges were allowed to surrender their charters, their membership having become so reduced that it was impossible to hold meetings and carry on the work. Three Brethren were indefinitely suspended for being connected with the sale of liquor. One of these, having taken out a licence for the current year, had charges brought against him, which looks like trying a brother for an offence for which he is already under punishment.

Finding that the officers of Mosaic Lodge had been installed in the E. A. degree, the Grand Master wrote asking for the reason, and was informed that it was according to Webb's Monitor.

"Deeming this to be irregular, I issued an order confirming the installation of the various officers and pronounced them the legal officers of the Lodge for the current year and confirmed all their acts prior to the issuing of my order."

If, as the Grand Master seems to imply, the installation should have been conducted in the third degree, we fail to see how his order could legalize the transaction. It would, in our opinion, have been better to have caused a new installation to be held.

He had his attention called to the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru, but as Nebraska has never exchanged courtesies with that Grand Lodge, he was spared the necessity of breaking relations with them. He refers the matter to the Grand Lodge that they may take such action as may be thought best.

In company with a number of his Grand Lodge officers and others, he paid a fraternal visit to the Grand Lodge of Iowa while in session at Council Bluffs, and was most hospitably received and entertained.

The report of Grand Secretary Bowen is a very complete statement of his work for the year. He is engaged on a resume of their Proceedings, and has Vols. V. and VI. ready to be issued whenever ordered.

The Grand Lodge listened with pleasure to words of wisdom from Past Grand Master Dewey and Grand Secretary Parvin, of Iowa; and delegated the Grand Master as its representative at the Washington Memorial Observances.

The Committee on Jurisprudence submitted majority and minority reports on decisions 1 and 2 of the Grand Master. The minority report recommends that they be not sustained—the majority report being to the opposite effect. The whole matter was, after discussion, left over until next year. The other decisions were approved. The Grand Master himself wanted some instruction in the law, the following decision, given in 1897, and appearing in the report of the Committee on Codification of the Law (p. 5,608) being rather at variance with his decision in the case of Mosaic Lodge, already referred to :

"No. 12, pages 5453-4. Officers of a Lodge installed contrary to paragraph 2, section 100, are officers *de facto*, and their acts are legal and binding ; their installation is void and the Grand Master does not possess the power to impart the virtue of validity to an act absolutely void."

We find 229 chartered Lodges in the Jurisdiction, with a membership of 11,775, a gain of 12 for the year.

No report on Correspondence.

M. W. FRANK H. YOUNG,

Grand Master.

R. W. WILLIAM R. BOWEN,

Grand Secretary.

NEVADA, 1898.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge was opened in Carson City on the 14th of June, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Albert Lackey, welcomed the Brethren, and thankfully noted the fact that the ranks of the Grand Lodge have not been broken by death during the year. The Craft within the Jurisdiction are prosperous, and fraternal relations with other Grand Lodges—with the exception of a short break with the Grand Lodge of Peru—have been harmonious. The Grand Master refused dispensations to authorize the reception of a petition from a rejected candidate in a shorter time than a year from the date of his rejection, and to dispense with the time regulation in the case of an applicant for the degrees. He decided in the case of an applicant with a cataract on one eye, that the Lodge should wait the result of an operation before acting upon the petition. This seems to be carrying the doctrine of physical perfection to an unreasonable degree, unless, as the Irishman said, the applicant was blind in one eye and couldn't see out of the other.

He paid a number of official visits. In one case we notice that the Lodge was opened in Ample form, and in another that the officers were installed in Ample form—both possibly all right, but new to us.

On the subject of the improper use of the black ball, the Grand Master has these very correct sentiments :

"While a Mason has the undoubted right to use the black ball without having his motive questioned or the fact inquired into, yet he should never allow his personal feelings or prejudices to carry him so far as to cast a negative ball upon the application of one whom he knows to be worthy."

The Grand Lodge decided to extend recognition to the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico, and to the Grand Orient of Belgium.

The pay-roll for the session amounted to the modest sum of \$171.85, and the Proceedings are contained in thirty-six pages of the report.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is again from the pen of W. Brother A. D. Bird, and is a brief resume of

the doings of fifty-four Grand Lodges. British Columbia for 1897 receives courteous notice, M. W. Brother Charleson's decisions being reproduced without comment.

Nevada has 20 working Lodges, with 837 members, a gain of five.

M. W. MATTHEW KYLE,
Grand Master.

R. W. CHAUNCEY N. NOTEWARE,
Grand Secretary.

NEW BRUNSWICK, 1898.

The Thirty-first Annual Communication was held in the City of St. John, commencing on the 23rd of August, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Brother Thos Walker, delivered a brief address, in which he welcomes the Brethren and reminds them of their responsibilities. He states that peace and harmony prevail in the Jurisdiction. Death has made his presence felt, the proverb that "Death loves a shining mark," occurring to one when reading the list of departed Brethren. Among those called away were such prominent men as Hon. Jas. Mitchell, Premier of the Province; Wm. C. Anslow, editor of the Union Advocate, and Geo. F. Harding.

The Grand Master has made a number of official visits; started one Lodge under dispensation; recommends the recognition of the Grand Orient of Belgium, and lays the matter of the Grand Lodge of Peru before Grand Lodge.

He records one decision, which was to the effect that the jurisdiction of each Lodge extends in every direction half-way to the nearest Lodge; the distance being measured in a direct line from Lodge-room to Lodge-room. In this we think he was right, although the Committee to whom the address was referred thought the distance should be measured by the usual means of communication and not by an air line. Being unable to decide the point, the Grand Lodge laid the disposal of it over until the next Annual.

The reports of the Grand Secretary, Brother J. Twin-
ing Hartt, and Grand Treasurer, Brother Edwin J. Ever-
ett, give a complete account of the transactions of their
respective offices.

The principal portion of the business of this Grand
Lodge is transacted by the Board of General Purposes.
They report the publication of a new edition of the Consti-
tution.

The gradual loss of members in the Jurisdiction was a
matter which received some attention, and which was, after
considerable discussion, referred to a committee to report.
Their report is as follows:

"Your committee, to whom was referred decrease in member-
ship, beg leave to report as follows:

"1st. That the falling off in membership is due to lack of inter-
est, which leads to non-payment of dues, suspensions, retiring on
dimit, &c.

"2nd. Past Masters having no official duties lose their interest

"3rd. Members are made without being called upon to pass
examinations.

"4th. Officers are advanced who do not make an effort to get
up the work, the only object being to get through the chair.

"5th The Grand Lodge is not made interesting enough to
members.

"Therefore your committee would make the following
suggestions :

"1st. That Worshipful Masters be requested to see that no
candidate be advanced who has not passed a successful examination ;
that no appointive officer be advanced who is not posted in his work,
and that he (they ?) personally interest himself (themselves ?) in
seeing that members attend ; that in the absence of degree work the
Worshipful Master instruct the Lodge, calling upon Past Masters as
much as possible to assist him.

"2nd. That the Board of General Purposes be authorised to
engage a lecturer, whose duty it will be to visit, instruct, and aid
in every way Subordinate Lodges.

"3rd. That your committee is of opinion that monthly or
quarterly collection of dues would be beneficial, and that the relief
from dues after twenty-one years is good.

"4th. That Grand Lodge meet in the morning, getting through
with routine work, and giving as much time as possible to discussion
on the Order ; that while exemplifying degrees is entertaining, the
time might be spent more profitably.

"5th. That as it is generally believed the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia is running on successful lines, your committee would suggest to the Board of General Purposes that they send a committee of three to the next meeting of Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia with instructions to get all possible information and report to this Grand Lodge.

"6th. That your Committee while personally satisfied with the present plan, believe that the itinerancy of Grand Lodge would be beneficial, and recommend the Board of General Purposes to take the matter into consideration."

This report was referred to the Board of General Purposes to report on at the next Annual Communication. The Board was also authorized to engage the services of a Grand Lecturer should they deem the same advisable.

There is no report on Foreign Correspondence.

New Brunswick has 31 chartered Lodges (and one under dispensation), with a membership of 1,757.

M. W. THOS WALKER,

Grand Master.

V. W. J. TWINING HARTT,

Grand Secretary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1898.

The Semi-Annual Communication was held in the City of Manchester on the 28th of December, 1897, and was devoted to an exemplification of work.

The Annual Communication, the One hundred and ninth, was held in the City of Concord on the 18th of May, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Henry A. Marsh, read a most pleasing address. He asks: "What is Freemasonry?" and says:

"Many have been the answers to the question. In short it may be said that it is a fraternity that in the variety and beauty of its symbols forms an organization with impressive outward forms and fervent inward spirit. It is in brief an organization labored with principles which the clearest wisdom attests. It is a philosophy which, as it unfolds truth, drives away doubt which unfits the mind for belief in the purer and holier things that give honor and dignity

to the soul. In it may be found a moral education where all the faculties of the moral nature are brought to the width and depth, the strength and height intended by the Creator."

A number of distinguished Brethren were called from labor during the year, to each of whom the Grand Master pays a fitting tribute.

We are pleased to note that dispensations to confer degrees "out of time" did not meet with the Grand Master's approval, though one such was granted. He attended the Centennial of Benevolent Lodge, which proved a delightful function.

Among the decisions rendered we find the following :

"Can we receive the application of a gentlemen who has until within a few months resided within the jurisdiction of another Lodge, if the Lodge within whose jurisdiction he formerly resided waives jurisdiction ?

"My decision was that the gentleman having removed permanently, the Lodge where he formerly lived has no jurisdiction, and he, not having resided the necessary time within the jurisdiction of the Lodge to which he wishes to apply, they cannot receive his application.

"The Grand Lodge having failed to fix a time when a Brother would forfeit the right to advancement, the Master is judge of what is sufficient cause for failure to appear for advancement under the by-laws of his Lodge."

The Grand Master dedicated the "Weston Observatory;" recommends a change in the manner of conducting trials; suggests a division of one of the Masonic Districts, and brings to the notice of the Grand Lodge the Masonic Orphans' Home.

The Grand Lodge issued one charter for a new Lodge; presented a jewel to the retiring Grand Master, and adopted a regulation defining the clothing of different members of Grand Lodge.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, by Brother A. S. Wait, is an interesting review of the proceedings of fifty-five Grand Lodges, some of them for two years, and is written in Brother Wait's most charming style. British Columba receives a very courteous notice, Brother Wait referring feelingly to our late M. W. Brother Marcus Wolfe.

Brother Wait does not, like some American Masonic writers, consider that the fact that the Mexican Grand Lodges have concluded that Masonry in that country is best governed by a United Grand Lodge, or *Gran Dieta*, is any bar to its recognition. He states, and his opinion coincides with our own, that the doctrine of State sovereignty is one of policy only, and is in no sense a landmark. The objections to the recognition of Mexican Masonry consist in the objectionable practices which obtain there, and not in the method of government of the Craft.

We beg to compliment Brother Wait upon the excellence of his report; also the Grand Secretary, Brother Geo. P. Cleaves, upon the general "get-up" of the Proceedings—not forgetting the admirable portrait on steel of M. W. Brother Andrew Burton, Grand Master 1880.

The chartered Lodges of the Jurisdiction number 77, and the membership is 9,224, a gain of 113.

M. W. JOHN McLANE,

Grand Master.

R. W. GEORGE P. CLEAVES,

Grand Secretary.

NEW MEXICO, 1898.

The Grand Lodge of New Mexico held its Twenty-first Annual Communication in the City of Albuquerque, beginning on the 3rd of October, 1898. The Grand Master, M. W. John W. Poe, presided, and there were present the representatives of 12 Lodges.

The Grand Master's address is an excellent paper. He acknowledges the watchful care of our Heavenly Father; rejoices that death has caused no vacancy in the ranks of Grand Lodge; is satisfied that the condition of the Craft in the Jurisdiction is good.

Several dispensations were granted for different reasons, including one to permit a Lodge to give Masonic burial to an unaffiliated Mason. Although by their laws a non-affiliate is not entitled to Masonic burial, the Grand Master considered that the Lodge might, as a matter of courtesy, perform the ceremony in such a case, and so

granted the dispensation, in which we think he was quite right. He refused to grant a dispensation to elect and instal officers at a special communication, and another to confer the degrees out of time. Although he thinks the Grand Master has the power to issue such dispensations, he thinks it should be sparingly used—with which we heartily agree.

In common with most other Grand Masters, he was asked a good many questions, the answers to which might have been found in the printed laws. He records ten decisions, all of which were aproved by the Grand Lodge, and with all of which we agree. We quote them, somewhat condensed.

1. He decided that in the case of an E. A. who, having removed to another Jurisdiction, desired to be advanced, that the Lodge having original jurisdiction might request another Lodge to confer the remaining degrees for it, as a matter of courtesy, in which case the Brother, upon receiving the third degree, would be a member of the first Lodge. On the other hand the Lodge might waive jurisdiction over the candidate in favor of another Lodge, to which he could then apply for the remaining degrees, and upon receiving them would be a member of the Lodge conferring them.

2. He decided that a member who committed suicide was entitled to receive Masonic burial.

3. A dispensation from the Grand Master is not necessary to enable a Lodge to hold a public installation in its own rooms.

4. A candidate who has lost his right thumb at the second joint cannot conform to the ceremonies, and therefore his application cannot be received. It would be wrong for the Grand Master to issue a dispensation to allow of this being done.

5. A dispensation is not necessary to enable a Lodge to request another Lodge to advance an E.A. or a F.C. for it.

6. Is somewhat to the same effect.

7. A Lodge may appropriate its funds for the relief of suffering Brethren in Cuba.

8. The Worshipful Master may request any Brother to assume his station and confer degrees.

9. The officers of a Lodge may, with the consent of the Worshipful Master, change stations or places, in order to confer degrees.

10. A member can only be suspended for non-payment of dues after due trial and conviction by the Lodge.

We take a possible exception to No. 3, because we do not believe in public installations.

The Grand Master made as many official visits as circumstances would permit ; adjusted a dispute between one of his Lodges and one in Colorado, and recommends that the Constitution, By-laws and Regulations of Grand Lodge be occasionally printed with the Proceedings.

He acknowledges that he has failed to reach his ideal of a Grand Master, but which of us, in our station, has not felt the same ?

The Grand Secretary, Brother Alpheus A. Keen, and the Grand Treasurer, Brother F. H. Kent, presented short reports, which show the Grand Lodge to be in a healthy state financially.

The business transacted at the Communication appears to have been mainly of local interest.

The report on Foreign Correspondence is the joint production of Brothers Max Frost and W. H. Seamon, and is an excellent commentary on the Proceedings reviewed. The committee disapprove of conferring the degrees on clergymen without fee; of legislation against non-affiliates, and the conferring of degrees out of time, and upon these subjects, as well as upon the many others discussed by them, their views are exactly in line with our own.

British Columbia receives courteous notice for 1897 and 1898; the former year by Brother Seamon, and the latter by Brother Frost. Brother Seamon does not approve of our law requiring the newly raised Brother to pass an examination before attaining membership, and personally, neither do we.

The volume contains handsome portraits of M. W. Brothers J. S. Worth and Chas. Bowmer ; the former Grand Master 1895-96, the latter 1896-97.

The chartered Lodges number 20 ; the membership 881, a gain of 28 during the year.

M. W. ROBT. C. STEWART,
Grand Master.

R. W. ALPHEUS A. KEEN,
Grand Secretary.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1897-98.

A Quarterly Communication was held at Sydney on the 8th of September, 1897, the Grand Master, Sir Joseph Palmer Abbott, presiding.

Memorial tablets to the memory of M. W. W. G. Sedgwick and Chas. F. Stokes were unveiled, and it was resolved to procure one in memory of the late M. W. Sir R. W. Duff. It was also decided to secure the incorporation of the Grand Lodge.

At the Quarterly held on the 8th of December, 1897, a draft bill of incorporation was presented, and the tablet in memory of Sir R. W. Duff was unveiled. It was decided not to recognize the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico for the present.

A Quarterly Communication was held June 8th, 1898, at which it was announced that the Master and Secretary of one Lodge had been suspended for contumacious conduct. The Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence presented a special report on the *Gran Dieta*, which is one of the best summings up of the case that we have read. He concludes that on account of the irregularities connected with that body, it is inexpedient to extend recognition to it.

The Report of the Board of Benevolence shows that the Brethren in New South Wales have not forgotten the teachings of their mother Grand Lodges.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is the first we have seen from our Australian Brethren, and is the joint work of a Committee of five. It is an admirable review of the proceedings of fifty Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1897.

Our Proceedings fell to the able pen of Brother J. B. Trivett, who found the reports of our District Deputy Grand Masters interesting, and advises his Brethren to read the sermon delivered by V. W. Brother Logan upon that occasion.

Unfortunately, or fortunately, perhaps, Brother Trivett did not come across our Report on Foreign Correspondence.

The Chartered Lodges number 220, with 6,847 members, a loss during the year of 86.

M. W. SIR JOSEPH PALMER ABBOTT,
Grand Master.

R. W. ARTHUR H. BRAY,
Grand Secretary.

NEW YORK, 1898.

The One Hundred and Seventeenth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New York was opened in the City of New York on the 7th of June, 1898. The Communications of this Grand Lodge being held so shortly before our own, the Proceedings come to hand just after our Report goes to the printer. Consequently we are nearly a year behind in the review.

The volume under consideration is in every way worthy of the magnificent Jurisdiction from which it comes, and its "get up" is a credit to R. W. Brother Ehlers and the printers. Just within the front cover are found exquisite steel engraved portraits of M. W. DeWitt Clinton and W. A. Sutherland ; the former of whom was Grand Master during the years 1806 to 1819 inclusive—the latter, the present Grand Master.

We notice with pleasure that R. W. Brother Thos. Bell was present as the Representative of British Columbia.

The Grand Master's Address covers about thirty pages of the Proceedings. He returns thanks to the Almighty for his many mercies; rejoices that the Craft has enjoyed harmony and prosperity during the year, and fraternally remembers those Brethren who have crossed the river since the last Annual Communication.

Among the many dispensations granted we are glad to say there are none to confer degrees out of time. In the

way of ceremonies the Grand Master had his hands full—eight corner stones were laid and nine Halls were dedicated. It is surely a matter for congratulation that in that immense Jurisdiction no question was asked of sufficient importance to call for a ruling, and that only one case requiring disciplinary measures was brought before the Grand Master. He granted only two dispensations for new Lodges; draws attention to the work of the Historian and of the Committee on Antiquities, and speaks in terms of high praise of the corps of District Deputy Grand Masters. He speaks warmly of the sympathy offered by the *Gran Dieta* on the occasion of the loss of the S. S. Maine; declined, for good reasons, to sanction appeals for aid on behalf of the Brethren in Cuba and Porto Rico, and states his action in the case of the Grand Lodge of Peru.

As usual, the Report of the Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother Ehlers, is a concise account of the work of his office during the year. The reports of the Grand Treasurer and of the Trustees of the Permanent Fund show the Grand Lodge to be in a most satisfactory financial condition. The amount of the Permanent Fund is now \$65,442.86.

The Reports of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund, and of the Superintendent of the Masonic Home, give an interesting account of the noble work of the Home. Many improvements have been made during the year, not only in the way of adding to the material comforts of the inmates, but also having regard to their mental improvement—so far as the children are concerned, at any rate. On the 1st of April, 1898, the number of inmates was 221; the average population for the year being 206, and the annual per capita cost \$188.53, as against \$191.52 for the previous year. Brother Jesse B. Anthony continues to perform the duties of Superintendent in a manner which calls for the warmest praise from the Trustees.

The admirable work performed by the Board of Relief calls for the highest praise. During the year 183 applicants have been assisted to the extent of \$1,612.06. Among their "Cases of Interest," we notice the following :

Case 1428. This applicant, from a Lodge in Venezuela, came here for the purpose of forming a company and to prosecute plans

for turning black men white, removing freckles, curing lepers, &c. A very bright, intelligent man, with no evidence of "wheels" but he failed to convince capital. Was helped some.

Case 1447. Another applicant claiming membership in Hartford Lodge, No. 88, Hartford, Connecticut. He was convinced of his error, and finally admitted he was unaffiliated from a Lodge in Scotland, and further admitted that he was a liar. If he had been kicked he would not have resented it, as the sense of shame had entirely left him.

Case 1495. A very neat, well dressed and gentlemanly young man from Sweden, claiming noble birth and family, and said he had been a soldier. Would not, or could not, reveal the name of his family, and did not know anything of Masonry, saying he did not deem it necessary, and that his word ought to be accepted. Not assisted.

Case 1501. A neat, smooth talker from London, England, whose remittances failed to materialize, but must have money to go to England at once on business. As he had no papers and failed to remember any Masonic rites and ceremonies, it is presumed he has not yet sailed.

Case 1503. This interesting individual claimed membership in Malling Abbey Lodge, Kent, England—a claim the Lodge repudiates. We offered him five dollars, pending investigation, but he refused more than three dollars, saying that was sufficient. Some day he will modestly ask an additional sum, which he will not get.

The Grand Lodge was presented with a portrait in oil of Past Grand Master John H. Anthon, and an engraved portrait of Past Grand Master Wm. H. Milnor.

A large amount of work was transacted by the various committees, but the interest is mainly local.

Appended to the Proceedings are the speeches of the Grand Master at the various functions at which he officiated—all exhibiting deep Masonic scholarship.

M. W. Brother Jesse B. Anthony found time in the midst of duties as Superintendent of the Home to prepare his usual interesting Report on Foreign Correspondence. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence sustained a serious loss in the death of Brother Ernest Ringer, whose digest of the doings of the various European Grand Lodges added to the attractiveness of the Report. His place is taken, this year, by Brother Emil Frenkel, who gives an interesting account of the procedure in the German Grand Lodges.

Brother Anthony reviews the Proceedings of the English speaking Grand Lodges, and gives a complimentary notice of two pages to our Proceedings for 1897, V. W. Brother Logan's sermon being especially mentioned.

Brother Anthony believes that the power to make a Mason at sight is a prerogative of the Grand Master, but one which is "more honored in the breach than in the observance," and one which is subordinate to the Constitution. If it is a "prerogative," we do not see how it can be abrogated by a clause of the Constitution. He thinks, and very correctly, that there is a tendency to too much legislation against non-affiliates and liquor sellers. He quietly "calls down" Brother Barkley, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for Mississippi, who says:

"Three pages of the Proceedings (New York) record wholesale work done in the line of dispensation alone. The machinery, no doubt, is in good order, and the Grand Master will have naught to do but set the mill in motion and turn out an equal number."

To which Brother Anthony replies :

"The inference is not pleasant and its spirit unkindly. We presume our Brother merely glanced at the list, and concluded it to be the enunciation of such as are to be found in the present number of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi. Truly unfortunate that he had not taken time to read them, as then he would have discovered they embrace only installation and ceremonial occasions, together with four dispensations for new Lodges—all strictly Masonic work. He would utterly fail to find any to confer degrees out of time, to take a new ballot to correct mistake, and others of a similar character."

The Addresses of many American Grand Masters are remarkable for the number of dispensations granted for re-ballotting on rejected candidates, conferring degrees out of time, &c., but New York is not of the number.

The Lodges in the Jurisdiction number 743; the Master Masons 95,480.

M. W. WM. A. SUTHERLAND,
Grand Master.

R. W. EDWARD M. L. EHLERS,
Grand Secretary.

NEW ZEALAND, 1898.

We have received a small pamphlet containing the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge at its Semi-annual Communication, held at Napier, on the 26th day of October, 1898.

The Board of Benevolence reported that during the half year relief had been granted to the extent of £46 16s.

The Board of General Purposes submitted a report stating, among other things, that at the direction of Grand Lodge they had considered the question of the adoption of a uniform work, and recommend that the matter be laid over for the present.

An amendment to the effect that the time had arrived for the adoption of a uniform work was presented, but failed to get the necessary support.

One new Lodge had been opened, and one Lodge had transferred its allegiance from the Scotch to the New Zealand Constitution. Two applications for new Lodges have been received.

The Board announce that official notice of recognition has been received from the Grand Lodges of England, Pennsylvania, New York and Wisconsin. Application for recognition has been made to the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, but sufficient time has not elapsed for the receipt of an answer.

The balances on hand amount to		
General Fund.....	£	645 3 10
Fund of Benevolence.....	1579	1 1
Widows' and Orphans' Fund.....	555	13 6
Aged and Indigent Masons' Fund....	145	1 10
		£2925 0 3

M. W. THE RT. HON. RICHARD J. SEDDEN,
Grand Master.

R. W. WILLIAM RONALDSON,
Grand Secretary.

NORTH CAROLINA, 1899.

The One Hundred and Twelfth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was opened in the City of Raleigh in Ample form by M. W. Walter E. Moore, Grand Master, on the 10th of January, 1899.

The Grand Master's Address is a brief one, taking up only five pages of the volume. The year, he says, has been one of decided progress, and no serious trouble has arisen in the Jurisdiction. One case which gave him some annoyance was the issuing by a certain Lodge of an unauthorized appeal for aid, but the parties concerned expressed their contrition upon being remonstrated with. He recommends the re-establishment of fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and objects to the recognition of "Negro Masonry" by the Grand Lodge of Washington. He does this because he believes such "Negro Lodges" to be clandestine, which would be a sufficient reason, but he then goes on to say :

"The social feature of Masonry is one of the strongest ties that binds Brother to Brother, and when that is destroyed it will bring such a state of affairs into play as would render absolutely worthless and dissolve every Lodge in North Carolina."

From this it would appear that the objection to the negro is not only because of his clandestineness, but on account of his undesirability from a social point of view. We conceive that it may be quite proper to object to the recognition of "Negro Masonry" because it is clandestine, but for an Institution which says that it "regards no man for his worldly wealth or honor," and that "it is the internal, not the external, qualifications" which decide a man's fitness to become a member, it is the height of inconsistency to object to a man because his skin happens to be black and he is socially of inferior standing.

The Grand Master was called on to make numerous decisions during the year, but none covering any new point. He restored three charters, and issued dispensations for two new Lodges.

The Grand Treasurer, R. W. William Simpson, reports a balance on hand of \$3,518.69, being an increase of \$632.52 over the balance of last year.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. John C. Drewry, also presents an interesting report, noting with pleasure the fact that the Lodge returns had come in more promptly than usual. He announces the fact that the portrait of Mr. B. N. Duke, ordered last year, had at last been completed, and hung in the Orphan Asylum, which is so largely indebted to Mr. Duke's generosity. The Grand Lodge has also been presented with a portrait of Past Grand Master Benjamin Smith, a friend of General Washington, and a Colonel on his staff.

The reports of the Directors of the Orphan Asylum ; of the Treasurer and of the Superintendent, show this valuable charity to be in a most satisfactory condition. The number of inmates at the close of the year was 217.

The Committee on Jurisprudence submit a lengthy report dealing with the recognition of Negro Masonry by the Grand Lodge of Washington. They present a very able and temperate report, stating that they regard Negro Masonic Lodges as clandestine, and the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington an insult to the Masons of the United States. Acting on their report the Grand Lodge directed the Grand Master to suspend fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington until the said Grand Lodge shall have reversed its action.

The Grand Lodge instructed the Directors of the Orphan Asylum to dispense with the services of the Lady Superintendent—a step which, considering the fact that the Asylum numbers 115 girls among its inmates, we consider very injudicious.

An amendment to the Constitution proposing to alter the date of meeting of the Grand Lodge was lost. Brother E. D. Winston was thanked for the gift of a Bible for the use of the Grand Lodge, and the retiring Grand Master was presented with a handsome jewel.

Five Special Communications were held during the year. Four of these were for the purpose of laying corner stones, and the fifth was an official visit of the Grand Lodge to the Orphan Asylum. At this meeting it was announced that the efficient Superintendent of the Orphan

Asylum had resigned, and a series of resolutions were adopted, expressive of the regret of the Grand Lodge at the loss of his services. We trust that the new Superintendent, whoever he may be, may prove as capable an officer.

The volume of Proceedings is adorned with handsome portraits of M. W. Walter E. Moore, Past Grand Master; John H. Mills, founder of the Oxford Orphan Asylum, and Benjamin Smith, Grand Master 1808-1810.

Brother John A. Collins, in an exceedingly well-written Report, gives an interesting resume of the doings of fifty-six foreign Grand Lodges. His review of British Columbia is for 1898, and is extremely complimentary. For his kind allusion to our personal work we offer our sincere thanks.

The Lodges in the Jurisdiction number 307—Master Masons, 10,954.

M. W. R. J. NOBLE,
Grand Master.

R. W. JOHN C. DREWRY,
Grand Secretary.

NORTH DAKOTA, 1898.

The Ninth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota was held in the City of Fargo, commencing on the 1st of June, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Robert M. Carothers (whose portrait adds to the attractiveness of the volume), delivered a very able Address, in which he presents to the notice of his Brethren some of the teachings of Masonry. He gives them the following good advice, which we copy for the benefit of readers at home :

"Ignorance of the teachings of our Order often leads us into error of speech and action. After receiving the Master's degree, we too frequently fall into the serious fault of thinking we are Masters. The Brother contents himself with thinking he is possessed of the body of Masonry when, in fact, all he possesses is the skeleton. The Mason who, having become familiar with the ritual of the Order, thinks himself well posted is as far from the fact as the child who,

having learned the alphabet, believes himself well educated. Both have made a good beginning and both have that which, if followed, will lead to the desired result ; but which if it inspires contentment will leave the one as lacking as the other. We do not all have time to read a great amount of Masonic literature, but we deprive ourselves of many of the best lessons intended to be taught by neglecting to study some of it."

He records the fact that of those who have filled elective offices in Grand Lodge, the first to be called away was M. W. William H. Best, who died on the 3rd of May, 1898.

Twenty-nine special dispensations were granted during the year, of which eighteen were to confer degrees in less than the regular time. Two, which were asked for for the same purpose, were, for some reason, refused.

Of these dispensations the Grand Master says :

"It may appear to some that the number of dispensations to shorten the time between the several degrees is unusually large. The policy of my predecessors in this regard has been extremely conservative, and properly so. I have not been unmindful of this record, but it is seldom, indeed, that during one administration two such emergent periods arise as those we have seen coming out of the rush to Alaska and our war with Spain. In many instances dispensations have been issued in favor of young men, sons of Masons, going in to answer their country's call, and of whose safe return our assurances are far from positive."

The number railroaded through the degrees does seem large, being $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole number raised. We think the Grand Master would have done well had he copied or even improved upon the example of his predecessor, and allowed those "young men, sons of Masons, going in" —to the Clondyke?—"to answer their country's call," to take their chances of the degrees upon their return.

The Grand Master issued a dispensation for an "Army Lodge," and recommends that Lodge and Grand Lodge dues be remitted to those members who are in the military service of the United States. This suggestion was adopted, so far as the Grand Lodge was concerned, by remitting the Grand Lodge dues upon such members of those Lodges who remit their dues.

Two dispensations were issued for regular Lodges, and two Lodges received their charters.

Seven decisions are recorded which are doubtless in accordance with local law, as they were all endorsed by the Committee on Jurisprudence. No. 1 is as follows :

"Q. If one or more members of the committee reports unfavorably, but the ballot when spread is clear, is the candidate elected or rejected ?

"A. Elected. The ballot governs always."

In this Jurisdiction such a report would reject without the necessity of a ballot. The sixth decision is to the effect that a man who cannot hear a whisper and one with a stiff leg are ineligible.

The Grand Master recommends an increase in the salary of the Grand Secretary, and says that with the single exception of Peru, the most cordial relations exist between North Dakota and other Grand Lodges.

The Grand Secretary, Brother Frank Thompson, in a well prepared report, calls attention to the Library, and shows the need for more accommodation. He has about completed the Grand Lodge "Membership Register," the card system being used.

The Committee on Finance recommend several appropriations, and feeling that the Grand Secretary was poorly paid, they recommend that his salary be arranged on a sliding scale—the more members, the more salary. It now only remains for Brother Thomson to work up the membership.

An amendment to the By-laws making compulsory the passing of an examination by every newly-raised Brother was, after some discussion, laid on the table for a rest.

Brother Thompson, whose portrait we find near the back of the book, is the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, but on account of the immense amount of work necessary in connection with the card register, no Report was prepared this year. We trust that during the current year Brother Thompson may be able to give us the benefit of his reading.

Fifty Lodges work in the State with 2871 members, a net increase for the year of 135.

R. W. FRANK J. THOMPSON,
Grand Master.

M. W. GEORGE H. KEYES,
Grand Secretary.

NOVA SCOTIA, 1898.

The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia met in its Thirty-third Annual Session in the Town of Lunenburg, on the 8th of June, 1898. M. W. Thos. B. Flint, Grand Master, presided, and British Columbia was represented by Brother the Hon. W. H. Owen.

Immediately after the opening, the Grand Lodge proceeded to St. John's Church, where a brief but instructive sermon was delivered by W. Brother the Rev. Geo. Haslam, from the text, "Meet for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work." II. Tim. ii, 21.

In his address, after extending a welcome to the Brethren, the Grand Master refers feelingly to those who have been removed by death during the year. He mentions his official visits, which included one to the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick and one to Ontario, when he participated in the ceremonies connected with the dedication of the Masonic Hall in the City of Ottawa.

The Grand Master recognizes the evils of non-affiliation but does not suggest a remedy, beyond desiring every Brother to urge upon non-affiliates the desirability of belonging to some Lodge. Among the dispensations granted we notice only one to enable degrees to be conferred out of time, and one to allow a Lodge to confer the second and third degrees upon a Brother who had been initiated in another Lodge. It is stated that the Brother in question is to be re-obligated in the first degree—why, we do not know.

The financial condition of Grand Lodge, while not "flourishing," is "satisfactory," and the Grand Master looks for-

ward to the day when they may have a surplus. The Library, he says, needs better accommodation; while recognizing the desirability of a "Masonic Home," he does not see the way to its attainment; prosperity has prevailed throughout the Jurisdiction during the year; foreign relations, except with the Grand Lodge of Peru, remain harmonious, and representatives have been exchanged with the Grand Lodge of Hungary.

In common with the Grand Masters of several other Jurisdictions, he suspended fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru.

The Deputy Grand Master, and the Junior Past Grand Master, presented short reports of their acts during the year.

The Grand Secretary, Brother Wm. Ross, finds the same trouble as many of his *confreres*, viz., tardiness in sending in Lodge returns.

The matter of a union of the Grand Lodges of the Maritime Provinces has been engaging the attention of a Committee, who report that the idea has not made much progress. Prince Edward Island is inclined to agree to such a union, but New Brunswick is still coy. The Committee on Constitution and Regulations reporting adversely, the Grand Orients of Belgium and of Portugal did not obtain recognition.

The Grand Lodge conferred the rank of Past District Deputy Grand Master upon several Brethren who had served as District Deputy Grand Masters during the year. We fail to see why, having served, the Past rank did not follow naturally.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is the joint production of R. W. Brothers T. V. B. Bingay and W. E. Thompson, assisted by the Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother William Ross. Sixty-two volumes of Proceedings are reviewed, including British Columbia for 1897.

The Committee emphatically dissent from the decision of the Grand Master of Alabama—that one who cannot

read nor write is not, on that account, ineligible to be Worshipful Master. The alleged Past Master's degree does not find much favor at their hands. In the review of Illinois, taking for the text the Oration of R. W. Brother W. G. Mason, the Committee avert to the "spread-eagleism" noticeable in some Addresses and Orations this year, and say:

"The whole speech struck us as being somewhat out of place. Even though the audience was assembled in a city of the United States, they were not there as citizens of that country, but as Masons, and it may have been that many there present with equal rights within the Lodge to the American Brother claimed political allegiance to some other nation, and felt the delivery of such a purely American speech to jar upon his feelings.

"Supposing a Britisher or a citizen of one of Britain's Dependencies had been present, and doubtless there was one present, how his blood must have tingled to hear the unjust and uncalled-for gibe at his beloved country contained in the following:

"England maintains her historic consistency by using her club on great States like Guatemala."

"And how he would have liked to rise in his place and send back a Roland for the Senator's Oliver as he could so easily have done; but he remembered he was one of a concourse of Brothers among whom no disturbing question of politics, religion or race should be allowed to come, and with sadness silently communed with himself on the thoughtlessness of our erring Brother. We cannot refrain from remarking that with the whole world of Masonry before him, our learned Brother could well have afforded to shun all subjects upon which Masons as a body throughout the whole world were not in harmony."

Our Proceedings fell to the hand of R. W. Brother Thompson, who fraternally devotes us a page of his space.

The chartered Lodges number 61, with 3,383 members.

M. W. THOS. B. FLINT,

Grand Master.

R. W. WILLIAM ROSS,

Grand Secretary.

OHIO, 1898.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio held its Eighty-ninth Annual Communication in the City of Columbus, on the 19th and 20th of October, 1898.

M. W. Brother Nelson Williams, whose portrait forms a handsome frontispiece to the volume, presided, and on behalf of Grand Lodge responded in felicitous terms to the Address of Welcome presented by Brother Chas. J. Pretzman on behalf of the city.

The Grand Master's Address is the longest we have read so far, taking up sixty-one pages of the Proceedings. He indulges in a little spread-eagleism over the late unpleasantness, but is forced to admit that "It is not becoming to boast too loudly over our victories—for our foe was weak and scarcely able to stand alone, much less to oppose a powerful enemy." "Notice," he says, "emphatic and final, has been delivered by the American army and navy, that every oppressor must cease his carnival of crime or be crushed in an irrepressible conflict." How would it do to turn the "American army and navy" loose in the Southern States at the present juncture?

Foreign relations of the Grand Lodge remain undisturbed ; several Lodges lost their charters by fire, and one surrendered its charter voluntarily. One hundred and six dispensations were granted and about the same number refused during the year. We are glad to note that although convinced that the Grand Master has the power to issue dispensations to confer degrees out of time, he followed the precedent set by his illustrious predecessors, and refused all such applications. Three new Lodges were organized by dispensation ; the Grand Master believing, however, that great care should be exercised in this direction.

Several cases requiring discipline were dealt with by the Grand Master ; a number of corner stones were laid and several Halls dedicated. He also made several official visits, including one to the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

The decisions recorded number ten. Of these we note the following :

1. The Ancient Constitutions provides that an applicant for Masonic degrees must be a man. An hermaphrodite, according to the books, is not a man, but a monstrosity, and therefore cannot properly be made a Mason.

3. The Worshipful Master of a Subordinate Lodge has no power either express or inherent, to suspend an officer of the Lodge from the functions of his office.

4. While Freemasonry prides itself upon adhering closely to the old forms and ceremonies, it must, to some extent, keep step with scientific development and the growing conveniences of the age, and, as the lights about the altar are mere representatives of other lights, electric bulbs may be substituted for the burning taper or gas jet.

9. Only in emergent cases will dispensations be granted to open lodges in the absence of all the first three officers of the Lodge.

10. In reply to the question, "Can Masonic funeral service be held over a M. M. in good standing if body is to be cremated?" the Grand Master answered: "Yes; if necessary change phraseology of funeral service."

The Grand Master calls attention to the spurious Grand Lodge existing in the State, and warns his Brethren against countenancing men belonging to its Lodges. He gives a list of Lodges owning allegiance to it, which, for the information of our Brethren, we copy.

NAME.	LOCATION.	NAME.	LOCATION.
Ahiman	Newark	Linton	Cincinnati
Alliance	Alliance	Massillon	Massillon
Alpha	Cleveland	Mt. Tabor	Chillicothe
Bismark	Cincinnati	Myrtle	Mt. Vernon
Brighton	Cincinnati	New England ..	Worthington
Columbia	Columbus	Olentangy	Columbus
Dumah	Springfield	Painesville	Painesville
Eureka	Cincinnati	Progress	Cleveland
Franklin	Columbus	Salem	New Salem
Gem City	Dayton	Scioto Valley ..	Portsmouth
Globe	Toledo	Surprise	Olmstead Falls
Hiram	Canton	Summit	Akron
Independence ..	Youngstown	Victor	Cleveland
Lessing	Toledo	Vinton	Galloway
Lincoln	Toledo	Washington	Cincinnati
Lincoln	Cleveland	West Mansfield ..	W. Mansfield

Since the foregoing list was issued the Grand Master has been made aware that there are three others in Cleveland, named respectively Columbia, Cuyahoga, and Alert Lodges; there are additional Lodges in Toledo, Springfield and in New Moorefield, the names of which he was unable to get.

The Grand Master refers with just pride to the Ohio

Masonic Home, and reminds the Brethren that while the Home is paid for and ready for work, it cannot successfully carry on that work unless the Craft contribute the sinews of war. He concludes a very able address with this beautiful sentiment :

"It is one of the happy thoughts of life that as we go down the pathway of time, some of our friends, usually Masonic friends, are strewing the beautiful forget-me-nots of friendship on either hand, and by gathering them, and treasuring them, they become in time a bouquet of sweet memories, the fragrance from which will follow us into the Courts of Eternity."

The Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Brother E. C. Gulliford, submitted a short report. His duties have been few, comprising principally visits to different Lodges. He visited one Lodge, Oberlin Lodge, No. 380, and straightened out some tangles. The Lodge rooms with their contents having been destroyed by fire, he approved of a new location. It appeared too, that a Brother feeling aggrieved at something, had asked for his dimit, which was made out, signed by the Master and Secretary, and the seal of the Lodge attached, without however any action having been taken by the Lodge. The Brother declined to accept it, and continued to pay dues, being afterwards elected as Treasurer of the Lodge. The Deputy Grand Master was asked whether the Brother was a member of the Lodge after the dimit had been made out, to which he replied that he was, as the Lodge had not conformed to the Code. At the annual election of officers the Secretary was re-elected but declined to be installed. At a subsequent meeting another Brother was elected and installed without a dispensation from the Grand Master. This, the Deputy ruled, was contrary to the laws of Grand Lodge, so that the former Secretary would hold office until a successor had been properly elected and installed.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows the Grand Lodge to be in excellent condition financially, the balance on hand at the close of the fiscal year being the handsome sum of \$29,484.15.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother J. H. Bromwell, states that the returns have been made in good time, but recommends that to ensure safety of the records, returns

be made in duplicate. He also recommends the sale of a large number of their old Proceedings.

The members of Grand Lodge, to the number of about 500, paid a visit to the Ohio Masonic Home, where they familiarized themselves with the workings of that excellent institution.

Upon the favorable report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, the Grand Lodge resolved to recognize the Grand Orient of Belgium.

An unfortunate Brother, whose name is very properly withheld, so far forgot himself and the respect due Grand Lodge, as to appear in an intoxicated condition. His case was referred to a committee, who content themselves with reporting that they found the Brother in the condition stated, and leave the matter in the hands of Grand Lodge, which, in view of certain extenuating circumstances, decided that his punishment should be the forfeiture of his mileage and *per diem* for the session.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence, by M. W. Brother W. M. Cunningham, is an excellent resume of the doings of sixty English-speaking, and eleven non-English-speaking Grand Lodges. Brother Cunningham's name attached to a report is a sufficient guarantee of the character of the work and this year's is fully up to his usual standard. He introduces his report by a short letter from our learned Brother W. J. Hughan, who states that he does not believe in the recognition (at present, at any rate) of the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico.

In his review of Georgia, Brother Cunningham speaks strongly upon the practice of expelling members for non-payment of dues, which, in his opinion, (and that of many more) is a "travesty upon *Masonic* justice." Neither Brother Cunningham nor any one else, desires to shield the Brother who is able but unwilling to pay his dues, but the gross injustice of placing an impecunious Brother in the same position as one guilty of adultery or attempted murder, seems very obvious.

Brother Cunningham deprecates legislation against

non-affiliates ; does not approve of the 'cipher ritual' ; believes that a Grand Master should serve for at least two terms ; and is of opinion that "the transaction of all business should in justice be again relegated to the E. A. degree, except that *actually* pertaining to the Second or Third Degrees." Under Virginia, we find the following :

"In his (Brother Alexander's) review of British Columbia, he says that the 'dual or plural membership' in Lodges, as permitted in Virginia, 'has built up not a few weak Lodges, carried them beyond the periods of struggle and discouragement, and left them able to maintain their proper place on the Lodge roll of the Grand Jurisdiction.' This is also the custom prevailing in the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England, and when Brethren can afford to keep up their membership in different lodges, it would seem that there cannot be much, if anything, that is objectionable in the custom."

It is *not* the custom in British Columbia for subordinate Lodges to lay corner stones without dispensation from the Grand Master, as one might infer from a short note in Brother Cunningham's review of West Virginia.

Our proceedings for 1897 are reviewed in a most courteous manner. Especial reference is made to our late M. W. Brother Marcus Wolfe ; V. W. Brother Logan's sermon is highly spoken of, and our work as a reviewer is kindly received.

Number of Lodges in the Jurisdiction, 500 ; of members, 42,848.

M. W. E. C. GULLIFORD,
Grand Master.

R. W. J. H. BROMWELL,
Grand Master.

OREGON, 1898.

The Forty-eighth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Oregon was held in the City of Portland on the 15th of June, 1898.

W. Brother B. G. Whitehouse represented British Columbia on that occasion.

In his address the Grand Master, M. W. Brother W. H. Hobson, refers briefly to the eminent Masons who have died during the year, Oregon mourning for R. W. Brother Samuel Hughes, Past Grand Junior Warden and Past Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Master laid one corner stone and instituted two Lodges under dispensation. A number of dispensations were granted for the conferring of degrees out of time, and two were refused—one to enable a Lodge to receive the petition of a profane without the qualification of residence, and the other to enable a Lodge to receive the petition of a man minus the thumb of the right hand.

Six decisions are recorded, all of which are in harmony with general Masonic law, and none of which bear upon any new question.

The Grand Master reminds the Brethren that their semi-Centennial is approaching, and requests them to make the necessary preparations to celebrate it properly.

The incorrigible Lodge Secretary afflicts Brother Jas. F. Robinson, Grand Secretary, as he does the Grand Secretaries of other Jurisdictions. Owing to the delinquencies of some of these officers Brother Robinson is unable to complete his report, and he asks the Grand Lodge to devise some means of relief.

The Educational Fund seems in a very satisfactory condition. Its income appears to be mainly the interest of 896 shares in the Building Association, which net the handsome rate of 8 per cent. The only outlay was the purchase of new books for the children of the Home, at a cost of \$50.

The Maine proposals, which were submitted at this session, received the approval of the Committee on Jurisprudence, and were, under the rules, laid over for one year. The Wisconsin proposition, which was also considered, failed to secure the support necessary for its adoption.

An excellent oration was delivered by Brother W. T. Williamson, who considers that Masonry originated much further back than the speculative guilds of the middle ages.

In fact Brother Williamson is of the opinion that speculative long antedated operative Masonry.

The proceedings of fifty sister Grand Lodges are reviewed by M. W. Brother Clow in his excellent Report on Foreign Correspondence.

Commenting upon our proceedings for 1897, Brother Clow quotes the decision of Grand Master Charleson that a Brother is not liable for dues until he has passed an examination in the work of the third degree, and says:

"The provision requiring proficiency meets our approval; but we think a Brother ought to contribute to the support of the Lodge from the time he receives the Master Mason's degree."

V. W. Brother Logan's sermon is said to be "both interesting and instructive," and an extract is made from it. We regret as much as Brother Clow, the fact that a notice of Oregon did not appear in our Report for 1897, but the proceedings did not reach the committee.

Brother Clow ridicules the idea of a Supreme Lodge for the United States. He thinks that the uniformity of work which it is thought might be obtained thereby is an *ignis fatuus*, as no Grand Lodge has so far been able to secure it even within its own jurisdiction. He sees no benefit to be derived from discussing the recognition of the *Gran Dieta*, as "its dissolution is only a question of a very short time, if it has not actually taken place," and thinks that anyway, Masonry in Mexico is not in a condition to ask for recognition.

Brother Clow differs from the Grand Master of Minnesota, who held that a Lodge might receive a petition for affiliation from a Brother residing in another Jurisdiction. He says:

"We doubt the wisdom of permitting a non-resident to petition and affiliate with a Lodge not a constituent of the governing body under whose jurisdiction he may reside, except by mutual agreement of the Grand Lodges having jurisdiction."

Brother Clow does not give any reasons for the view he takes, which is different from that generally held; we think it is generally accepted that a Brother may present his petition to any Lodge that is willing to receive it.

An excellent steel engraving of M. W. Brother W. H. Hobson, Grand Master in 1897, forms a frontispiece to the volume, and a brief biographical sketch of the Brother is inserted in the proceedings.

The Grand Secretary places the number of Lodges in the Jurisdiction at 101, and the Committee on Returns gives the membership as 4,946.

M. W. JOHN B. CLELAND,
Grand Master.

R. W. JAS. F. ROBINSON,
Grand Secretary.

PENNSYLVANIA, 1898.

The Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania are always of exceptional interest, not only from a literary, but also from an artistic point of view. This year the frontispiece is an exquisite steel engraving of the magnificent Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, which is probably the handsomest, inside and out, on the Continent. As insets we find splendid portraits (also on steel) of R. W. William A. Sinn, Grand Secretary; of R. W. A. Bournonville, Grand Master 1852-53, and of R. W. James Hutchinson, Grand Master 1854-55.

A quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge was held on the 2nd of March, 1898. The business transacted was mainly of local interest, but a reply to their Address of Congratulation was received from His Majesty, King Oscar, of Sweden.

A "Grand Lodge of Emergency" was held on the 30th of the same month, at which the Grand Master made "Masons at sight" of Messrs. Joseph Krauskopf, John Wanamaker and John L. Kinsey.

At the quarterly held June 1st, 1898, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund report that they had paid to the Grand Secretary for the reduction of the Masonic Temple loan

\$21,552.83. The Committee on Correspondence reported in favor of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand and it was resolved to acknowledge it as a sovereign Grand Lodge.

A third quarterly was held September 7th, at which the Grand Secretary presented his report for the year ending 27th December, 1897. It shows the number of Lodges at that date to be 429, with an active membership of 52,060, an increase over the previous year of 1,029.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was held at the quarterly of December 7th, R. W. Brother Kelly declining re-election. The R. W. Grand Treasurer was the recipient of a very complimentary address, congratulating him upon having completed a quarter of a century's service in that office. A substantial testimonial in the shape of a handsome silver loving cup, accompanied the address.

The Committee on Finance report that the loan has been reduced \$77,100, standing, at the 15th of November, 1898, at \$258,150. There is available for the further reduction of the loan, the sum of \$41,283.92.

The Annual Communication was held on the 27th of December, 1898.

The Committee on Correspondence made a special report dealing with the recognition of Negro Masonry by the Grand Lodge of Washington. Their report goes to show that the so-called Negro Lodges are clandestine, and they recommend that fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington be suspended until that Grand Lodge shall have rescinded its action. This report and recommendation were concurred in by the Grand Lodge.

The various charity funds in connection with the Grand Lodge also made report, from which it appears that the amount expended by them in charity was \$7,708.

An exceedingly interesting Historical Address was delivered by Brother Julius F. Sachse, in which he adduces further evidence to show that Pennsylvania is the oldest Grand Lodge upon this Continent. The address is illustrated with fac simile reproductions of pages of Benjamin

Franklin's ledger and journal, and other documents of great Masonic value.

The Grand Master's address on this occasion is a brief but interesting account of his official acts. He says :

"In ending my term I most devoutly thank God that I give to my successor the office clear of all complications of whatever nature, with our membership united, prosperous and zealous in the full discharge of all the duties that they owe to us.

"I also give him a perfectly clear sheet in our relations with foreign Jurisdictions.

"There is not a single question left open, either of a domestic or foreign character that can in any way affect the peace and harmony of the Jurisdiction."

He constituted several new Lodges ; made a number of official visits, and laid many corner stones. A large number of decisions were rendered, of which we note the following :

"1. Should an Entered Apprentice Mason be deprived of advancement if he, through business relations or other necessary duties, fail to pass a satisfactory examination, not having the time to learn it ? / ns. Yes."

"2. No Masonic Lodge, as such, can take part in a civic parade."

"3. If the Worshipful Master is not present at the meeting of the Lodge, the Senior Warden rightfully takes his station."

"4. The Ahiman Rezon provides for the dress of the Brethren at Masonic funerals. No Masonic clothing is permitted."

"5. A supper and dance cannot be given under the auspices of a Lodge, even though it may not have to bear the expense."

"6. That age has nothing to do with the qualifications of a petitioner for initiation and membership."

What, then, of those under age and those in their dotage ?

On the 10th of August, 1898, the Grand Master, assisted by his officers, laid, with Masonic ceremonies, the corner stone of the new Capitol building at Harrisburg. During the proceedings interesting addresses—Masonic and historic—were delivered by the Grand Master, R. W. William J. Kelly; Brother Daniel H. Hastings, and Brother the Hon. Alex. K. McClure.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is the work of a Committee of which M. W. Brother Michael Arnold is the chairman. They review in a courteous and friendly manner the Proceedings of fifty-six Grand Lodges—British Columbia for 1897 and 1898 being favorably noticed.

Discussing the cipher ritual, the Committee answers Brother Drummond, who says:

"That the cipher is intelligible to the one who makes it is true, but what of that? Are the secrets of Freemasonry thereby 'unlawfully obtained'?"

The Committee say:

"We answer they *may* hereby be 'unlawfully obtained,' for we believe we are safe in saying that no cipher has been invented which cannot be deciphered. It may take a long time to discover the appropriate 'Rosetta' stone, but such is the desire to penetrate into the mysteries of Freemasonry that inasmuch as even with the greatest care ciphers or rituals do go astray and fall into the hands of the profane, the ingenuity of the curious will be exercised to discover the meaning of the cipher when found."

Nor does the Committee approve of public installations, believing that these ceremonies are violations of Masonic secrecy. With this view we agree. Masonry does not seek to advertise itself to the public, nor does it endeavor to attract candidates by gorgeous uniforms or imposing ceremonies, but without any display inculcates the three great tenets of a Mason's profession—Brotherly love, relief and truth.

M. W. HENRY W. WILLIAMS,
Grand Master.

R. W. WILLIAM A. SINN,
Grand Secretary.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 1898.

The Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island held an Emergent Communication in the City of Charlottetown, on the 13th of October, 1897, "for the purpose of participating in the celebration of the Centennial of St. John's Lodge. No. 1."

The Grand Master, M. W. Brother Leonard Morris, delivered an interesting Address, from which we gather that a number of Masons belonging to a regiment stationed in Charlottetown held Masonic meetings under authority from a Lodge at Halifax. We are not informed as to the nature of these meetings, nor what authority could be derived from the Lodge in Halifax, but they (the meetings) were evidently informal. These Brethren being desirous of being constituted into a regular Lodge, applied to the Grand Lodge of England for a charter, but for some reason this was not granted until 1797, when St. John's Lodge was constituted.

The Twenty-third Annual Communication was held in the Town of Summerside, on the 24th of June, British Columbia being represented by R. W. Brother Daniel Ross.

The Grand Master's Address is a straightforward account of his official acts. He began his official career with mingled feelings of pride and fear, but at the close of the year, says that it has been a pleasant one.

The condition of affairs in his Jurisdiction is such as to call forth his heartfelt thanks, while their relations with other Grand Lodges are satisfactory. As Prince Edward Island and Peru have never exchanged Representatives, he took no action when that Grand Lodge removed the Bible from its altars.

The Grand Master explains his action last year in refusing to put a motion for the adoption of a new Constitution. His reason was that the proposed amendments had not been sufficiently considered. He puts the case very plainly in these words:

"No one has suffered for want of Constitution, and hasty legislation leads to confusion, and is always a source of perplexity."

He says a little further on:

"The Grand Lodge seems to have been confused for some time in not understanding the difference between Constitution and By-laws."

And there are other pebbles on the beach. Our own Constitution is a confused jumble of Constitution, By-laws,

Rules and Order, Penal Code and Definitions which would perplex a Philadelphia lawyer.

The Grand Master made several official visits, and was received and entertained as became his rank. The Lodges visited appear to be doing their work in a very satisfactory manner.

One Lodge was organized under dispensation, and one dispensation was issued to enable a Lodge to confer the F. C. and M. M. Degrees in less than the regular time. Of the latter, the Grand Master says:

"I do not think this is a good thing to do."

Then why do it?

The reports of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer show the Jurisdiction to be in a healthy condition, while the Trustees of the Charity and Benevolent Fund report that the money in their hands amounts to \$290.13.

Only one District Deputy Grand Master takes the trouble to make any report. He is Brother John D. Bell, District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 3, and he found the Lodges under his care to be in a flourishing state.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

From the Grand Secretary's report we learn that there are twelve chartered Lodges in the Jurisdiction, and one under dispensation, the membership of which is 525, a gain of four over last year.

M. W. LEONARD MORRIS,
Grand Master.

M. W. NEIL MACKELVIE,
Grand Secretary.

QUEBEC, 1898.

It may seem somewhat late in the day to review these Proceedings, the Annual Communication having been held on the 26th of January, 1898, but they have just come into the Committee's hands, and "better late than never."

We are favored with portraits of M. W. Edwin Johnson, Q. C., Grand Master 1883-84-85; James F. Walker, Grand Master 1886-87, and H. Luke Robinson, Grand Master 1888.

A Special Communication was held in the town of Magog on the 2nd of November, 1897, for the dedication of the new Masonic Hall at that place.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Communication was held in the City of Montreal, beginning on the 26th of January, 1898, M. W. E. T. D. Chambers, Grand Master, presiding.

His Address abounds in beautiful sentiments, expressed in Brother Chamber's usual happy manner. He returns thanks to the Almighty

"For the favors which He has showered with such lavish hand upon us, upon the Craft at large, upon our Jurisdiction, our Country, and the great and glorious Empire to which it is alike our privilege and our proud boast to belong, during the last twelve months that have been so fittingly described as the 'sacramental year of the imperial creed.'"

The Grand Lodge has lost a number of members by death, and they, as well as the dead of other Jurisdictions, are fraternally remembered. Among the latter is R. W. Brother F. W. Baxter, of Vermont, a staunch friend of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, which conferred on him the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden.

One Lodge was constituted, and one formed under dispensation.

Speaking of dispensations, the Grand Master thinks that they are "for the most part licenses to do what is otherwise forbidden," and has been careful accordingly in issuing them. Among those issued we regret to notice one "to initiate a candidate whose residential qualification was open to question"; one "authorizing the conferring of the second and third degrees upon a candidate at the one meeting," and one authorizing a Worshipful Master "to initiate, pass, and raise a candidate who was to leave for China on the following day."

The Grand Master, like the rest of us, has

"been struck with the numerous instances in which parties on the eve of leaving the country have all at once, and quite uninfluenced, as they tell us, by any mercenary motives, conceived a favorable opinion of the Masonic Institution and a desire for knowledge; though the zeal with which they petition to be railroaded through the several degrees may not always be such as to elicit our admiration of that 'sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow-creatures,' by which they claim to be prompted to solicit our privileges."

He says furthermore:

"It sometimes occurs to me that those who have contrived to live all their past lives amongst us, without indulging any extraordinary desire for a knowledge of our science, or any special wish to be serviceable to those who have surrounded them here, can well afford, when about to leave us for pastures new, to wait just a little longer for a knowledge of our mysteries, until at least they are somewhat settled in their new homes and acquainted with their surroundings, and that without the endurance of any great degree of suffering, either in mind, body or estate, from their inability to be more serviceable to their newly-found neighbors than they were to those amongst whom they have hitherto lived. The case of the candidate whose departure for China was decided on at very short notice, was an exceptional one, and I was glad to be able to issue the dispensation applied for by the Worshipful Master, and recommended by the D. D. G. M., in favor of one who had long contemplated petitioning for the degrees of Freemasonry. The remarks that are offered under this head are intended for general application, and in the hope that Masters of Lodges and Investigating Committees will carefully weigh the petitions of all candidates who, upon the point of leaving the country, are smitten with a sudden desire to be possessed of our privileges, and seem to believe themselves entitled, in consequence, to be afforded extraordinary facilities for obtaining them."

What strikes us, furthermore, is the unanimity with which Grand Masters condemn the practice of granting such dispensations, yet almost invariably issue them when asked.

Relations with other Grand Lodges have been most satisfactory, a slight misunderstanding between this Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Idaho over some material claimed by the latter being in a fair way of amicable adjustment. In view of the action of the Grand Lodge of Peru, the Grand Master recommends the suspension of fraternal relations with that body.

An alleged Lodge having been started in Montreal by the Grand Orient of France, the Grand Master warns the Brethren that the said Lodge is irregular and illegal, and cautions them not to visit it, nor to admit as visitors its members.

The Grand Secretary, M. W. Brother J. H. Isaacson, furnishes a very complete and detailed account of the work of his office. During the early part of the year, Brother Isaacson suffered severely from illness, but by the favor of the Almighty has been quite restored to health. We beg to extend our congratulations to Brother Isaacson, and hope he may be spared for many years to fill the office he now so ably occupies.

The District Deputy Grand Masters present interesting statements of the work done by the Lodges in their various Districts. The cipher ritual, under the name of "plans of work," appears to be a feature in Quebec Masonry, several of the District Deputy Grand Masters complaining that the Lodges are insufficiently furnished in this respect.

We learn with regret that at the time the District Deputy Grand Master of the Ottawa District wrote his report, R. W. Brother Garrioch was lying seriously ill, Brother Garrioch, it will be remembered, was, some years ago, an enthusiastic member of this Jurisdiction, and we trust that long ere this he has regained his wonted health.

The R. W. Grand Chaplain favored the Grand Lodge with an able Address, full of words of encouragement and good advice.

R. W. Brother Will H. Whyte succeeds M. W. Brother E. T. D. Chambers as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and submits a very interesting review of the Proceedings of fifty-nine English-speaking Grand Lodges, with a synopsis of the doings of the German Grand Lodges, taken from the Report of Brother Ernest Ringer, of New York.

The Wisconsin plan of relief, Brother Whyte thinks, is practically dead, and we hope it is. The Maine proposition, he believes, is not likely to be generally adopted, and he is not sure of the *status* of the *Gran Dieta*. Of this body he very truly says:

"The various statements regarding this Grand Body are very conflicting."

The action of some of the American Grand Lodges

respecting non-affiliates he considers does not go far enough. As he says:

"The punishment does not quite fit the crime. Some legislation should surely be enacted to follow this criminal fellow, after death, into the other world."

British Columbia for 1897 is fraternally reviewed. The review of that year was a joint affair, Brother Whyte, and the initials of the reviewer were appended to each notice, though for some reason they were left out by the printer. The practice in this Grand Lodge is to have one ballot for the three degrees, and the expression disapproving of the custom was the personal opinion of the writer of the extract.

In Quebec are 55 chartered Lodges and one under dispensation. The members number 3,590.

M. W. E. T. D. CHAMBERS,
Grand Master.

M. W. J. H. ISAACSON,
Grand Secretary.

RHODE ISLAND, 1897.

Three Special Communications of this Grand Lodge were held during the year. The first, at Providence, on the 15th of October, 1896, was to lay with Masonic ceremonies the corner stone of the new State House. The speeches delivered on that occasion are given *in extenso*, and are most interesting historical documents. An excellent picture of the building (which, by-the-way, somewhat resembles our own Legislative Building at Victoria) is also given.

A second Special Communication was held at Pawtucket on the 15th of April, 1897, the occasion being the laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple in that City. A view of the handsome and substantial structure is inserted in the Proceedings, and the excellent speeches by the orators of the day are given in full.

The third Special Communication was held at Providence on the 8th of June, 1897. This was for the purpose

of paying an official visit to Corinthian Lodge, No. 27, and the feature of the session was the presentation to the Lodge by the M. W. Grand Master, of a beautiful set of the "Great Lights," which were duly dedicated to the uses of Masonry.

The Semi-annual Communication was held at Providence on the 16th of November, 1896, M. W. William H. Crawley, Grand Master, presiding.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Edwin Baker, presented his report, and was ordered to prepare a "Pocket Monitor," containing the exoteric work.

The work of the E. A. Degree was exemplified by the officers of one of the Lodges.

The One Hundred and Seventh Annual Communication convened in the City of Providence on the 17th of May, 1897.

The Grand Master delivered a short Address, referring briefly to the prosperity and harmony of the Jurisdiction. He mentions several prominent Brethren who died during the year, including R. W. George M. Carpenter, Past Deputy Grand Master.

But few dispensations were issued; none for the "rail-roading" of candidates. Several official visits were made. A number of decisions were made, but only three are reported. They are as follow:

That any application for release of jurisdiction must be made by the person desiring it to the Lodge from which it is necessary to obtain said release, and that all Lodges receiving such petition, must in every respect conform to the requirements of Section 11, of Article VII., of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge.

"That a Lodge cannot drop from the roll a member who was in arrears in dues at the time of his suspension by the Grand Lodge, and no dues can accrue while said member is under suspension. After the expiration of suspension the Lodge may take action in conformity to Section 23, Article VII.

"That in balloting on a petition, in case of a negative ballot, if the black and white do not agree when collected, it leaves the petition the same as if no ballot had been taken, and the Master may, at his discretion, continue to ballot so long as such disagreement exists or until satisfied that it is for the best interest of the Craft to postpone the ballot until the next regular meeting of the Lodge. Article VII, Section 21."

The Grand Master states that much good has resulted from the efforts of the Grand Lecturer, and makes the capital suggestion that this officer should visit the Lodges when they hold "practice meetings." At such meetings he can correct the mistakes of the different officers as they occur, which cannot be done while the Lodge is conferring degrees.

He suggests several changes in the Constitution, and recommends that jurisdiction over rejected applicants be limited to five years. The present practice in Rhode Island is to hold jurisdiction for seven years.

The Library Committee report that since the fire in 1896, which destroyed the Grand Lodge Library, they have received donations of books and pamphlets to the number of 3,309, several more being promised.

A Committee was appointed to revise the Constitution; the Committee which had in hand the reprinting of their earlier Proceedings, reported that Vol. II. was in the press, and asked for a grant of \$200.00, which was voted; the Grand Lodge was presented with a sword for the use of the Grand Sword Bearer, and the Grand Secretary was ordered to procure a Jewel and an Apron for the retiring Grand Master, M. W. William H. Crawley.

The Wisconsin proposition was referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

There are 37 Lodges with 5,113 members; a gain of 224.

M. W. CYRUS M. VAN SLYCK,
Grand Master.

R. W. EDWIN BAKER,
Grand Secretary.

RHODE ISLAND, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Cyrus M. Van Slyck, presided over the Semi-annual Communication, which was held in the City of Providence on the 15th of November, 1897. He

made a short Address, presenting for the information of the Grand Lodge a ruling which he had made in connection with a case of disputed Lodge jurisdiction.

The Grand Secretary also submits a short report, stating that as Custodian of the Work the demands made upon his time have been numerous, the newly-elected officers all evincing an earnest desire to acquire the correct work. The additions to the Library have not been few, and the collection of books is beginning to assume fair proportions.

The Committee who had in hand the revision of the Constitution, reported that they had attended to that matter, and submit a draft of a new Constitution, which was adopted and ordered to be printed.

Several cases requiring discipline were dealt with; a Past Grand Master's apron and jewel were presented to Past Grand Master Crawley; and the Grand Lecturer was instructed to revise the Lectures for the instruction of candidates.

The One Hundred and Eighth Annual Communication was held in the City of Providence on the 16th of May, 1898, M. W. Cyrus M. VanSlyck, Grand Master, presiding.

In his Address he chronicles a steady and healthy growth of the Craft in the Jurisdiction, but notes that several prominent members have been taken during the year, including Past Grand Master Thomas Vincent.

The dispensations granted do not call for any special mention, and the decisions made are all in accord with general Masonic law. The Grand Master very correctly ruled that dues do not accrue against a suspended member during the period of suspension, and ruled against the use of the stereopticon and of robes in the conferring of degrees.

An admirable report by the R. W. Grand Secretary, Brother Edwin Baker, shows the work done by him during the year. He is one of the few Grand Secretaries who manage to get the returns in on time.

The business transacted during the Session was of local interest only.

An Emergent Communication was held in the City of Bristol on the 4th of February, 1898, to lay to rest the remains of the late W. Brother Orrin Wilson.

A Special Communication was held at Pawtucket, May 9th, 1898, to dedicate those portions of the Masonic building set aside for Masonic purposes.

A Festival Communication was held at Providence, on the 24th of June, 1898, to dedicate those portions of the Masonic Hall which are devoted to Masonic uses.

We are not posted as to the difference between "Emergent," "Special," and "Festival" Communications, the last two names being applied to Communications held for apparently the same purpose.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

M. W. CYRUS M. VAN SLYCK,
Grand Master.

R. W. EDWIN BAKER,
Grand Secretary.

SCOTLAND, 1897-98.

A quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was held on the 4th of November, 1897, the Rt. Hon. Lord Saltoun, M. W. Grand Master, on the Throne.

Charters were granted to two Lodges.

A "minute of condolence" was sent to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, as Patron of Scottish Masonry, on the occasion of the death of H. R. H. the Duchess of Teck.

The Annual Communication was held on the 30th of November, 1897, at which the Rt. Hon. Lord Saltoun was again elected and installed M. W. Grand Master.

The Feast of St. Andrew was celebrated by an "excellent dinner" in the Great Hall, and after dinner was over Grand Lodge was re-opened and patriotic and Masonic toasts were the order of the evening.

A quarterly Communication was held on the 4th of August, 1898, the M. W. Grand Master presiding. The business transacted was of local interest only.

At the close of the Communication a number of the members met in the Upper Lodge Room, when the R. W. Grand Secretary was presented with a purse of sovereigns, and his wife with a service of plate. Lord Saltoun, in making the presentation, referred to the fact that Brother D. Murray Lyon had served as Grand Secretary under six Grand Masters, five of whom were still alive, and on behalf of these five he presented Brother Lyon with a handsome gold watch and chain.

No Report on Foreign Correspondence.

M. W. THE RT. HON. LORD SALTOUN,
Grand Master.

R. W. D. MURRAY LYON,
Grand Secretary.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1897-98.

A half-yearly Communication was held in the City of Adelaide on the 20th of October, 1897. M. W. the Rt. Hon. S. J. Way, Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Justice of the Colony, presided, and was heartily welcomed back to the Colony after a lengthy visit to Great Britain, by the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, the Hon. J. G. Jenkins.

The M. W. Grand Master in a felicitous speech thanked the Deputy Grand Master for the hearty welcome given him. While in England he had had the great honor and pleasure of presenting the Address of Congratulation to Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen, which was graciously received by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, who undertook to personally lay it before Her Majesty. The Address was presented to H. R. H. at the memorable meeting held in the Albert Hall, at which meeting the Grand Master was honored by having conferred on him the rank of Past Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of England.

The Board of General Purposes report among other

things the consecration of a new Masonic Hall at Yorktown, and the building of a new hall at Port Darwin. A new Lodge at Snowtown was consecrated. During the half year 54 petitioners had been relieved from the Benevolent Fund to the extent of £139.11.0, besides monthly payments to six widows and two Brethren, amounting to £9.0.0 monthly.

The Annual Communication was held on the 20th of April, 1898, the M. W. the Rt. Hon. S. J. Way, Grand Master, presiding.

It is noted that the V. W. Grand Secretary, Brother J. H. Cunningham, was prevented by illness from attending the Communication, but we trust that before this he has regained his health.

The M. W. Grand Master was again the recipient of the congratulations of Grand Lodge—this time upon the fact that he had taken to himself a wife—which were extended to him in a neat little speech, the Brethren signifying their concurrence by

“departing from their usual custom by hearty hand-clapping, and rising in a body.”

The Board of General Purposes report credit balances in the various funds as follow:

General Fund	£ 244.19. 0
Available Benevolent Fund.....	662.19.10
Permanent Benevolent Fund..	1,155.10.10

Fifty-five petitioners had been relieved during the half year to the amount of £118.7.0, and six widows and three Brethren were receiving monthly aid of from £1.0.0 to £1.1.0 each.

A new Lodge was consecrated at Murray Bridge, and a warrant issued for a new Lodge at Port Lincoln. The Port Darwin Lodge had erected a new Hall, which had been duly dedicated, and the corner stone of a new Hall at Norwood was laid by the Grand Master.

The Board recommend that the Grand Lodge accept the invitation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia to participate in the Washington Memorial Observances, and also recom-

mend the discontinuance of friendly relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru. Both suggestions met with the approval of the Grand Lodge.

The R. W. Grand Inspector of Lodges, Brother Philip Dakers, being about to leave the Jurisdiction, was presented by the Grand Master on behalf of the Brethren with a substantial testimonial in the shape of a cheque for £178.0.0, which was suitably acknowledged by the recipient.

There are 41 chartered Lodges in the Jurisdiction, with 2,332 members, a gain of 66.

M. W. THE RT. HON. S. J. WAY,
Grand Master.

R. W. J. H. CUNNINGHAM,
Grand Secretary.

SOUTH CAROLINA, 1898.

A Special Communication was held in the City of Spartanburg on the 30th of September, 1898, for the purpose of laying the corner stone of the Music Auditorium of Converse College. During the ceremony the Grand Master was presented with a gavel made from an ash tree planted by George Washington, at Mount Vernon.

The One Hundred and Twelfth Annual Communication was opened in the City of Charleston on the 13th of December, 1898, by the M. W. Grand Master, Brother Jacob T. Barron.

An Address of Welcome was presented by the Mayor of the City, Brother, the Hon. J. Adger Smith, which was acknowledged in suitable terms by the Grand Master.

The Grand Master's Address is, as he puts it, "brief, simple, and businesslike." This is his sixth Annual Address, and he is called upon for the first time to note a vacancy in the "official household" caused by death, the Brother who has been called away being R. W. Richard S. Porcher, Distret Deputy Grand Master.

Generally speaking, the Craft is in a flourishing condition, though in some sections prosperity is not so marked, the low price of cotton causing a tightness in money matters which had its effect upon the Craft. The Officers are becoming more familiar with the ritual. The Grand Master says:

"I do not attach much importance to numbers. Instead of taking membership as the evidence of our condition, let us remember that it is only when we reflect in our daily lives the teachings of our noble Order that we can truly say we are prosperous."

The visits made by the Grand Master, while not numerous, were productive of much pleasure to him and no doubt of benefit to the Lodges; three Lodges were revived, and one dispensation was issued for a new Lodge. A number of special dispensations were issued, several to authorize the conferring of degrees out of time. Two decisions are reported, viz:

1. O. A man is able to give and receive both the manual and pedal signs, being in possession of all functionary organs thereto appertaining. He is, however, a so-called "cripple." In his youth he sustained some injury, which made one portion of his body contract, and he limps very noticeably; however, without the aid of either stick, crutch, or other assistance. Is he eligible?

A. He is not, under Art. 111 of the Constitution, which says: the candidate must be "NOT DEFORMED, or dismembered at the time of making, but of hale and entire limbs, organs and members, as a MAN OUGHT TO BE."

2. Q. A man wished to apply for initiation who got his right arm hurt, which caused his little finger and the one next to it to crook in. Will that debar him?

A. Yes. Article 111 of the Constitution requires that every applicant shall be "of hale and entire limbs, organs and members, as a MAN OUGHT TO BE." It cannot be claimed that even a man's little finger and one next to it OUGHT to be crooked in. If they ought not to be crooked in, he is debarred under that article of the Constitution, for under its terms ANYTHING that is not as it OUGHT to be, debars the applicant.

It appears from these decisions that the "perfect youth" doctrine prevails in South Carolina. To say that "*Anything* that is not as it *ought* to be debars the applicant," is, we think, to push the physical perfection theory to its utmost limit—or a little beyond. Under this law a man with strabismus, asthma, or a bald head would be ineligible.

The Grand Master did not feel called upon to take any action *re* the Grand Lodge of Peru, that Grand Lodge not being in fraternal communication with the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. The appeal of "The Craftsman," of Atlanta, Ga., for aid for the suffering Cubans, caused the Grand Master to send a letter to the Editor of that periodical, asking for certain information as to the disposition of the funds, to which, however, he got no reply. He refers to the question of "Negro Masonry," as brought up by the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and trusts that some action will be taken by the Grand Lodge to show its disapproval of the course pursued by Washington.

The Committee on Charity report having assisted three widows to the extent of \$30.00, other applicants being referred to the Charleston Board of Relief. The latter had twelve applications, seven of which were found worthy and were relieved, the expenditure in this connection having been \$114.61.

The District Deputy Grand Masters report the Lodges under their charge to be, generally speaking, in a healthy and prosperous condition. One, however, speaking of the "Ritual," which appears to be printed, says:

"I regret to note that I have found a disposition on the part of the Masters of Lodges to depend largely upon the Ritual, that is, reading from the ritual in conferring the work of the Lodge. This should not be, and I have positively prohibited it as far as I have been able. It would be well, in my opinion, for this Grand Lodge to speak upon this subject at the present session. I fear harm has been done, and is being done by the use of the ritual in the Lodge room. Much of the solemnity and impressiveness of the ceremony is lost by reading from the Ritual."

An interesting question was brought before the notice of the Committee on Jurisprudence in the following letter, which was referred to them by the Grand Master:

"I find that I was initiated illegally. I was told that twelve months' residence in the State was necessary before becoming a member, but that it did not have to be twelve consecutive months, so I sent in my application and received the E. A. degree, which I now know I had no right to. So I write to see what the Lodge will do about it. What I wish is a statement from the Lodge and under the seal of the Lodge, that I was not entitled to receive the degrees in this State, when I did, nor at the present time.

"I can get the degrees at home and wish to do so.

Hoping this meets with your approval, I remain,

"Yours

"_____."

Extract from the letter from Secretary of Amity Lodge:

"The W. M. asks your decision on enclosed matter.

" 'Brother _____ has applied for the F. C. Degree several times since taking the E. A. degree, but the ballot has been unfavorable..'"

Passing over what appears to your Committee to be the reasons for Mr. _____'s application, your Committee are of opinion that the jurisdictional question has long been settled, and is beyond question, that is to say, Amity Lodge having assumed jurisdiction in this case, based upon the petition of the applicant, and the report of the committee thereupon, has perpetual jurisdiction of this material, and cannot now renounce it, for the reasons stated in the letter of _____ or for any other reasons."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence submit a special report on the subject of Negro Masonry, condemning the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and recommending the severance of fraternal relations. Needless to say, the report was unanimously adopted.

A feature of the second day of the session was an oyster roast, provided by the Charleston Lodges at the Isle of Palms, and which, the Grand Secretary informs us, was a most successful affair.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is from the able pen of Brother Charles Inglesby, R. W. Secretary. Sixty-five Proceedings are passed in review, including British Columbia for 1897. He sympathizes with us in the loss of M. W. Brother Marcus Wolfe, who for many years represented South Carolina near this Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of South Carolina claims perpetual jurisdiction over its rejected candidates. Under District of Columbia, Brother Inglesby says:

"The Grand Lodge of South Carolina, from its organization, has sustained the perpetual jurisdiction doctrine, and so far as we can see, it will continue to do so. That is enough for us. We do not claim nor expect that our regulations regarding rejected candidates shall be operative within the territory of another Grand Lodge. *In their territory* they can do as they see fit. They can, if they like it, take the stones rejected by the builders of our Temple and put them in proud places in their Masonic edifice, but if they are brought into South Carolina they will be, and will be always, treated as rejected material, and therefore unfit for our Masonic association."

Brother Inglesby strongly objects to the practice in some Jurisdictions of treating non-affiliates as though they

were criminals; he thinks too, it would be well to give Mexican Masonry a little longer probation before extending recognition.

In these days it is refreshing to meet with an American writer who is so far free from spread-eagelism as to view the late "unpleasantness" from the stand-point of common sense. Brother Inglesby quotes from the Address of the Grand Master of New York his remarks *re* the message of good-will sent by the President of Mexico, who is also Grand Master of Masons in that country, and adds these sensible remarks:

"All this reads very nicely, but it was written when patriotism and war for 'humanity's sake' was at fever point. Since then the war has been fought and won, and the evidence of the fighters on our side is, that war itself and the blockade of Cuba has resulted in the total destruction by the horrible death of starvation, of all the 'pacifico' Cubans for whose relief the war was started. The so-called Cuban insurgents were a set of negro thieves and bandits who were never on the fighting line, but who were ready to rob the defenceless, even the dead bodies of those heroes who had gone from the United States to fight, as they supposed, for those who had been making a worthy struggle for freedom.

"From our inmost heart, we execrate the dastard or dastards who blew up the Maine, and we would like to see the death of every American seaman who perished there avenged to the uttermost, but there is no proof of who the dastards were. We have seen it asserted that it was done by a Cuban insurgent and not by a Spaniard. It was not claimed that the one was more virtuous than the other, but it was argued, and strongly argued, that none but a blind fool of a Spaniard would have done that which would, as it certainly did, inflame the whole United States, North, South, East and West, to rush into a war with Spain, or at least drive Spain out of Cuba. A smart, but utterly inhuman Cuban insurgent, willing at any cost to others, to carry his end and discomfit Spain, might have foreseen that the blowing up of the Maine would produce that which he most desired, a war between the United States and Spain, and have acted accordingly. Some idiot writing in the European press, has said that the war with Spain was brought on by the Masons. That is the baldest nonsense, but it is certain that the 'Gran Dieta' and the Grand Master of Masons in Mexico," were quick to seize upon the Cuban question to further their own ends. Masonry has nothing to do with politics or war, except to mitigate the evils attendant thereon. The Grand Master says that it is the 'first time in the history of the world that the Masonic Fraternity was selected as the medium through which one nation should be made to feel the welcome hand-clasp of another,' &c. We think that the true Masonic doctrine is that the Mason is to feel the hand-clasp of his brother Mason in any nation or in any clime. There are Spanish Masons who should be as dear to us as any Mexican can ever be. The Grand Lodge of Cuba, the only Masonic governing body in Cuba, is located in Havana. Its Grand Master, its Grand Secretary and all its officers are Spaniards residing in Havana. We are in fraternal intercourse

with that Grand Body, and do not know whether any of the insurgents are Masons."

We are sure that Brother Inglesby is as patriotic as any of his countrymen, but we agree with him that the "war for humanity's sake" was not all that fancy painted it.

There is much more in this excellent Report which we would gladly transcribe for the instruction of our Brethren did time and space permit. We are admonished, however, that we must hurry on, so bid *adieu* to Brother Inglesby for the present.

132 Chartered Lodges and three under dispensation.
5,840 Master Masons.

M. W. BARTLETT J. WITHERSPOON,
Grand Master.

R. W. CHARLES INGLESBY,
Grand Secretary.

SOUTH DAKOTA, 1898.

The Proceedings of this Grand Lodge are, as usual, very tastily gotten up, and reflect great credit upon the Grand Secretary. They are embellished with handsome portraits of M. W. Oscar S. Gifford, Grand Master 1882-3; M. W. Albert W. Coe, Grand Master, 1897, and R. W. Franklin J. DeWitt, Deputy Grand Master, 1875.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Communication was held in the City of Sioux Falls, beginning on the 14th of June, 1898, British Columbia being represented by Brother Thos. H. Brown.

The Grand Master, M. W. Albert W. Coe, condensed what he had to say into about twelve pages. He mentions with brotherly affection R. W. Franklin J. DeWitt, sometime Deputy Grand Master, whose demise during the year inflicted a severe loss on the Craft of the Jurisdiction. Three Lodges whose charters had been granted at the last Communication were constituted, and one was started under dispensation.

"All requests to receive petitions from those who had not resided the constitutional time within the jurisdiction of the Lodge, have been refused. I also refused many applications to confer degrees before the regular time had expired."

The only exceptions to the latter rule were the applications of those going to "the front." An application for authority to hold a "travelling Lodge," was, properly we think, refused by the Grand Master.

His experience tallies with that of other Grand Masters, viz: that many questions are asked which could easily be answered by reference to the Book of Constitutions or By-laws. The only decision he reports illustrates the complications likely to arise from the "ballot-for-each-degree" system, and after reading his answer we are not very sure now as to where the candidate stands. The decision is as follows:

"An E. A., after five years, applies for advancement; ballot being spread, he is declared rejected. At a subsequent meeting he again applies, and ballot being spread, he is declared elected; it being known that two members who were present during the first ballot, were not present at the time of the second ballot.

"Q. Is his election legal?

A. According to our By-laws, yes.

"In my opinion, no, as one who has for five years been an E. A., and during that time has never learned his lecture, or made any attempt for advancement, should sign a petition, which should be referred to a committee, and lay over four weeks before action on same."

The Committee on Jurisprudence find that according to the By-laws, the action of the Lodge was perfectly legal. The law, as they define it, requires that an E. A. of more than one year's standing shall petition the Lodge for advancement, and if refused is in the same position as one whose advancement is stopped for other reasons, i. e., he can petition the Lodge at every subsequent meeting should he so desire. They very correctly point out, too, that the presence or absence of any member cannot affect this right.

The Grand Master has had some correspondence with the Grand Master of Michigan relative to a person who, after having been rejected by a Lodge in Michigan, had been accepted and made by a Lodge in South Dakota. This matter was also referred to the Committee on Jurispru-

dence, who report that the Grand Lodge of South Dakota had, after due consideration, given up the perpetual jurisdiction doctrine, and that the candidate referred to, having complied with all the requirements of the South Dakota law, must be considered a properly made Mason.

A Brother in Yankton, a worthy man, and apparently in straightened circumstances, requested the Grand Master to allow him to issue a circular letter to the Brethren, asking for assistance to enable him to pay off a mortgage. This the Grand Master very properly refused to do. As he says:

"How many of us throughout this Jurisdiction would be only too glad to have the mortgages on our little homes released."

The Grand Master realizes the inconveniences arising from having the Grand Lodge "on wheels," so to speak, and recommends that a permanent place of meeting be selected. The idea, however, did not find favor with the Grand Lodge, so they continue to move around.

The Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother Geo. A. Pettigrew, read a very complete report, fully justifying the enconiums awarded him by the Grand Master. He reports the satisfactory progress of the Library and of the membership register, and suggests a revision of the By-laws. The report of the Grand Treasurer, R. W. Brother Fred. L. Stevens, shows a healthy condition of the Grand Lodge funds in his charge.

The Grand Lodge received a visit from Brother Andrew E. Lee, Governor of the State.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, besides matters mentioned above, dealt with several questions submitted to them. They do not consider it advisable to form a so-called "travelling Lodge," and recommend the abrogation of fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru. In reply to inquiries they state that a Lodge cannot grant dimits to its members when its membership has fallen below the Constitutional number, and also that a person who has no fixed residence cannot be made a Mason in the State.

The admirable Report on Foreign Correspondence is

again written by our esteemed Brother William Blatt. He reviews in an impartial and interesting manner the Proceedings of sixty sister Grand Lodges, British Columbia for 1897 being among the number. The three most interesting topics of the year, he thinks, are, jurisdiction over rejected candidates; non-affiliation; and Mexican Masonry. As to the first, he is, of course, in favor of perpetual jurisdiction. He cannot, nor can we, look upon a non-affiliate as a Masonic criminal, to be excommunicated with bell, book and candle, and buried without benefit of clergy; and he thinks, again with us, that Mexican Masonry can safely be taken on probation for awhile yet.

He approves of the decision of M. W. Brother Charleson, and is pleased to express his approbation of the work of this Committee, for which kind words we offer our thanks.

The chartered Lodge number 92, with one under dispensation, the membership numbering 4,460.

M. W. LOUIS G. LEVOY,

Grand Master.

R. W. GEO. A. PETTIGREW,

Grand Secretary.

TENNESSEE, 1899.

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee held its Eighty-fifth Annual Communication in the City of Nashville, commencing on the 25th of January, 1899.

The Grand Master, M. W. William H. Bumpas, delivered an Address which, if somewhat lengthy, is certainly replete with beautiful thoughts eloquently expressed. In a Jurisdiction like Tennessee the office of Grand Master is no sinecure, as the record of M. W. Brother Bumpas shows. A large number of dispensations were issued—none to confer degrees out of time; two Lodges were formed under dispensation, and many rulings given, of which twenty-nine are recorded. Those of interest are:

3. Ruled that a man with the left hand off at the wrist was eligible for the degrees. (Page 20, Proceedings 1830.)

4. Is a Master Mason under charges competent to bring charges against a Brother? *Held*, That he is.

9. Has a Lodge the right to call off for a week or more, or for a period exceeding twenty-four hours? *Held*, That it has the right to do so up to the next regular meeting.

12. Question was asked: Could a man with his right hand off at the wrist receive the degrees in Masonry? *Held*, According to our Edicts, that he could not.

17. Petition is received by New Middleton Lodge, No. 249, and after the usual course is ballotted upon favorably. Previous to the meeting a member notifies the Worshipful Master that if the petition is favorably received he would object to the candidate's receiving the degrees. When the candidate was elected the objecting brother was not present. *Held*, That the Master had a right to confer the degree, and that the objection before the election does not hold.

18. Mount Tabor Lodge lost its Master by death. The Senior Warden announced himself as not qualified to fill the position, and positively refused to do so. *Held*, That the Senior Warden could not as he was incompetent, it was his duty to request the services of a Past Master or the Junior Warden.

24. Can a railroad man who has no particular home file a petition with Wartrace Lodge, because he moved near them and his children's grandparents are near there, Libanus Lodge having refused to recommend the reception of the petition? *Held*, That he must conform to requirements of Edict and reside twelve months.

27. —, was born, reared and educated in the City of Nashville, where his parents still reside. He never claimed or had a home anywhere else. For some years past he has belonged to the regular army of the United States, and as a soldier subject to orders, removes from place to place, having no fixed residence for a period of twelve months. *Held*, That Nashville Lodge had jurisdiction of him, and instructed Edgeville Lodge, No. 254, to receive his petition, which was accordingly done and he was made a Mason.

The Grand Master had received communications from several foreign jurisdictions asking him to appoint Representatives. As Tennessee has abolished the custom, he was unable to do so. He thinks, however, that the practice is a commendable one, and recommends the Grand Lodge to revive the custom. He thinks that the meeting of Grand Lodge occurs too early in the year, and suggests that the date be changed. He is much pleased at the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Peru.

Of the "Home," he says:

"We have nothing to bring from this Grand and flourishing Institution but good news."

More room was required in the Home during the year, and to meet the necessary expense the Grand Master solicited voluntary contributions, with the pleasing result that a cottage has been built and paid for. Still other improvements are needed, which he hopes may be proceeded within the near future. He also urges the Craft to make provision for the comforts of "the old Mason"; the Mason who has been, perhaps, a leader in the Craft, but who has seen his best days, and now, in the evening of life, lacks many of the comforts or even necessities of existence. He asks for the modest sum of \$2,000.00 for this excellent work, but the Grand Lodge thought the time for such an undertaking had not yet come.

Two distinguished members of Grand Lodge passed away during the year; Brother John R. Frizzell, a young, but bright and enthusiastic Mason, and Brother A. M. Hughes, Past Grand Master.

The Grand Master urges leniency in the case of Brethren who are unable to pay their dues, and advises the Brethren, too, to solicit and invite non-affiliates to again connect themselves with some Lodge. The matter of "Negro Masonry," of course comes in for the Grand Master's attention, and without going into details he recommends the suspension of friendly relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington. He would be glad to see fraternal relations established with the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico.

We have already devoted so much space to the Grand Master's Address that we regretfully refrain from copying some of the excellent advice and beautiful thoughts with which he brings the Address to a close. Suffice it to say that he urges those elected to office to thoroughly qualify themselves; tells the Brethren to "make the Lodge attractive"; urges them to refrain from profanity, and to cultivate their minds by the aids of reading and study.

In the afternoon the Grand Lodge attended an entertainment given by the children of the Home, which was a most delightful affair, reflecting great credit upon those connected with the management of the Institution.

From the Report of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, we notice that in Tennessee an unfortunate

Brother in arrears with his dues is liable to expulsion. We do not wonder that the Grand Master urged the Brethren to rather remit the dues of such Brethren as are worthy. In the same report we notice that a Brother who was tried on a charge of drunkenness was recommended for indefinite suspension. We are glad to notice, however, that the penalty for non-payment of dues was reduced to suspension until such time as the delinquent dues are paid.

The Widows' and Orphans' Home has cared for a daily average of 108.35 inmates during the year, the yearly *per capita* cost being \$55.66.

The Grand Lodge decided, in reply to a query, that

"No saloon-keeper should be installed Master of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction."

The following resolution also was adopted:

"That the representative system heretofore existing in Tennessee be restored."

Another very interesting Report comes from the pen of Brother Geo. H. Morgan. He reviews the Proceedings of British Columbia for 1898—the administration of M. W. Brother E. D. McLaren, whose Address is described as a "straightforward, business-like document," but whose ruling on the question of residence is thought strange. V. W. Brother Logan is complimented on the annual Sermon, and the Report on Foreign Correspondence is commended.

Brother Morgan believes that a Grand Master should have the power to grant dispensations to confer degrees out of time where good cause is shown; thinks that in case of an unfavorable ballot, if a Brother should announce before any Brother has left the room that he cast the unfavorable ballot, the Master should allow another ballot to be taken, and expresses his disapproval of the "topical" review.

Brother Morgan quotes with approval the decision of the Grand Master of Missouri that

"A brother convicted of a criminal offence is not necessarily guilty of a Masonic offence."

This decision was "turned down" by the Committee

on Jurisprudence of Missouri, but Brother Morgan says:

"The learned Committee evidently fails to draw the proper distinction. They make 'the being convicted' a Masonic offence, instead of the alleged 'crime.' We would not attack 'the solemn adjudication of a court of law in a criminal case collaterally;' neither do we admit the right of a court of law to say 'collaterally,' that a Mason shall be reprimanded, suspended or expelled. He must first be tried for the 'crime' in the Masonic Lodge, and not for 'the solemn adjudication of a court of law.' Grand Master Tygard is *certainly* correct."

That seems only a reasonable view of the case, Brother Morgan, although in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England the practice is as laid down by the Committee.

Brother Morgan's review of Washington, (six and a half pages,) is entirely confined to a discussion of the recognition of Negro Masonry by that Grand Lodge. Needless to say, perhaps, that Brother Morgan is opposed to such recognition, but we regret that he has spoilt an otherwise temperate review by quoting as an expression of his own sentiments the following words:

"I am not inclined to meddle in the matter. I took my obligations to white men, not to negroes. When I have to accept negroes as brothers or leave Masonry, I shall leave it."

Number of Lodges 428. Number of Master Masons 17,248.

M. W. JOS. H. BULLOCK,
Grand Master.

R. W. JOHN B. GARRETT,
Grand Secretary.

TEXAS, 1898.

The Sixty-third Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge was held in the City of Houston, commencing on the 6th of December, 1898. M. W. John L. Terrell, Grand Master, presided in the East, and 400 Lodges were represented.

The Representative of British Columbia, Brother T. H. Haynie, was at his post.

The Grand Master condenses his Address into twelve pages, and says a good deal even in that space. He calls on the Brethren to give especial thanks for the protection of the Almighty during the year—the country is prosperous, the Craft is at peace, and the Lodges are thriving. He constituted ten new Lodges, and granted dispensations for six more; disciplined a Lodge guilty of violating the law in accepting a candidate who had lost some of the fingers of his right hand; healed a number of Brethren who had received the degrees irregularly; and granted a large number of dispensations. Some of these dispensations were issued to enable Lodges to confer degrees out of time, but only to such applicants as came under the following rule:

"Where the brother had recently received the E. A. or F. C. degree, but before a declaration of war or hostilities had begun, and could not well have applied for advancement sooner, and having enlisted, was about to leave the country with his company to take part in the war against Spain."

Several dispensations asked for were refused, viz: to bury a Mason suspended for non-payment of dues; to send out circulars asking for aid; to form a military Lodge; and a number to confer degrees out of time.

Ten decisions are reported, of which we note the following:

3. A brother holding an appointive office, cannot demit during his term of office.

6. Where charges have been preferred by a brother, other than the Junior Warden, and the Junior Warden feels that he is disqualified to prosecute the accused, and believes him to be innocent, there is no reason why the Junior Warden may not act as proxy for the accused and represent him at the trial.

7. That in the trial of an accused, a witness who is a member of another Lodge cannot sit in the trial Lodge to testify over the objections of members of such Lodge, but his testimony must be taken by a committee or by a deposition in the manner provided by law.

8. Jurisdiction of a Lodge is determined by distance in a direct line, and not by travelled route.

9. That where a brother who has been elected Master of his Lodge, refuses to receive or conform to that part of the installation ceremony known as the Past Master's Degree, having never received it, the old Master will hold over.

10. That a brother offering to visit a Lodge has no right to

demand that the charter be brought into the ante-room for his inspection.

The Committee on Jurisprudence (and the Grand Lodge) declined to approve of No. 6. The Committee say:

"The sixth decision is not concurred in by us. The Junior Warden is the prosecuting officer of the Lodge, and it his duty to prefer charges and prosecute them, unless related to the accused, in which case he may excuse himself from prosecuting, but he shall not represent the accused."

It seems to us to be a little hard to compel the Junior Warden to prosecute a Brother whom he believes to be innocent of the charge brought against him.

The Committee also say that the Grand Master is correct in saying that a visitor has no right to demand a sight of the charter, (No. 10,) but that as every visitor has a right to be satisfied of the regularity of the Lodge he seeks to visit, no reasonable request for a sight of the charter should be refused.

The Grand Master refers briefly to the Widows' and Orphan's Home, which has been begun; to the finances of Grand Lodge; and to the "Washington Memorial."

Their foreign relations continue to be satisfactory. The Grand Master finds cause for congratulation in the fact that the Grand Lodge of Peru has reconsidered its action of 1897, and thinks that the recognition of Negro Masonry by the Grand Lodge of Washington is an ill-advised step which will be sure to lead to trouble.

The Deputy Grand Master also read an Address of some ten pages. We are not informed that the Grand Master was absent from the State or ill, so must conclude that the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master in Texas are clothed with the same authority.

The Deputy Grand Master constituted one Lodge and issued dispensations for three more, besides numerous dispensations for other purposes. He refused dispensations to confer degrees out of time, except in one instance where the circumstances certainly did appear to warrant it.

He records eighteen decisions, of which the more interesting are the following:

3. The degrees of symbolic Masonry should never be conferred in the day time. Lodges, whose stated meetings are held in the afternoon should, when any degree work presents itself, after dispatching its (their?) regular order of business, call off until night, and then confer its (their?) degree work.

6. All trials, except for non-payment of dues, should take place at called meetings only.

7. When a member who had never served a term in any office in the Lodge, is duly and constitutionally elected or appointed to fill said office, and refuses to be installed therein, he is guilty of a violation of Article 5, Chapter 5, Section II., of the Constitution, and is subject to discipline therefor.

12. Is a brother, who has been a Past Master of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, but dimitted therefrom and affiliated with another Lodge, of which he has not since been Master, eligible to the position of D. D. G. M.? Ans. He is not. If he was a P. M. and his Lodge demises, he also loses his Past Mastership and becomes ineligible.

18. Before a Lodge can move from one hall to another, even in the same town, it is necessary that permission be secured.

The Grand Lodge, on the report of the Committee on Jurisprudence, decided that there was no particular part of the twenty-four hours set apart for the conferring of degrees. No. 6 was also disapproved of, the Committee stating that the time of holding a trial rested with the Master of the Lodge. No. 7 appears to be in harmony with Texas Masonic law, but it seems strange to subject a Brother to discipline for refusing to be installed into an office to which he may have been elected without his consent. No. 12 is, of course, in harmony with that law also, but seems rather inequitable. No. 18 the Committee state to be erroneous, the law distinctly providing that such removal may be made.

A special committee, after having duly considered the matter, made a report on the subject of Negro Masonry, which is of the same general tenor as other reports which have been noticed. They submit the usual resolution declaring non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Washington, which was adopted by the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge felt the incongruity of having two Grand Masters, as it were, and adopted a resolution declaring that the powers conferred on the Deputy Grand Master were only to be exercised in the case of the absence from the State or inability to act, of the Grand Master.

The Committees on Grievances and Appeals—of which there are three—had their hands full, their reports taking up a large share of the volume. The only case of interest outside of the Jurisdiction is that of a Brother charged with denying the divine authenticity of the Bible. He was tried by his Lodge and expelled, and appealed the case to the Grand Lodge. The Committee find that the appellant stated that he did not believe that the first five books of the Bible were written by Moses, and were therefore not of Divine origin; that he did believe in a God as revealed by the Bible, and that Christ was the Son of God; that the Scriptures as a whole were Divinely inspired, but that mistakes had crept into the translations. Upon this evidence the Committee recommended that the sentence of the Lodge be reversed, and that the appellant be restored to membership in his Lodge.

After some trouble the Directors of the Widows' and Orphans' Home selected a site near Fort Worth, and are proceeding with the erection of the building, which they hope to have completed before the next session of the Grand Lodge. We wish them every success in this commendable work.

Brother Thomas M. Matthews again favors us with one of his charming Reports on Foreign Correspondence. He manages to condense a review of some fifty Proceedings into ninety-eight pages—a feat which we cannot hope to equal.

Brother Matthews delivers this fraternal advice to the Grand Chaplain of Kansas:

"Our reverend and good brother calls the fraternity an 'order' To this we demur. The Oddfellows, Red Men, Woodmen, *et hoc genus omne*, are orders, but Freemasonry *never*. It don't belong to that class. Call it, dear brother, as it is, a *Grand Fraternity*."

In his review of Kentucky, Brother Matthews takes his stand against "electioneering for office," which, he rightly says, is becoming too common.

"There should be a universal law forbidding it, and the law should be strictly enforced."

He records his vote against the conferring of degrees

out of time and against the cipher ritual. In Texas, in the absence of the Master, the Wardens successively rule the Lodge and may confer degrees, which we think is right. In the absence of all three—Master and Wardens—any Past Master present may open the Lodge. The practice is different in British Columbia, agreeing in that with Idaho and Kentucky, but Brother Matthews says they find it very convenient sometimes.

His review of Washington is largely a discussion of the Negro question. He dissents from the finding of the Washington Committee, and thinks that the decision of that Grand Lodge will get it into trouble. He concludes by adopting as his own, the language of Brother Albert Pike:

"I am not inclined to meddle in the matter. I took my obligation to white men, not to negroes. When I have to accept negroes as brothers or leave Masonry, I shall leave it. Better let the thing drift."

We hope it is not so bad as that, Brother Matthews. Negroes visit our Lodges, but we see no reason to leave Masonry on that account.

Brother Matthews' review of British Columbia for 1898 is exceedingly kind. Of V. W. Brother Logan's sermon he says:

"Would it had been printed in pamphlet form and distributed broadcast among Masons everywhere, and that they would read and profit by it."

Of the work of this Committee, Brother Matthews is very complimentary, and we beg to assure him that we very much value his good opinion.

The returns show 617 chartered Lodges, with 27,718 members.

M. W. SAM. R. HAMILTON,
Grand Master.

R. W. JOHN WATSON,
Grand Secretary.

UTAH, 1899.

The Grand Lodge of Utah held its Twenty-eighth Annual Communication in Salt Lake City, commencing on the 17th of January, 1899.

M. W. John Francis Hardie, Grand Master, presided. Our Representative, Brother W. W. Woodring was not present, but his absence was caused by illness. We hope that our Brother has, ere this, regained his health.

The Grand Master states in his Address, that the health of the Craft is excellent; the Brethren have exercised proper care in the selection of new material, and the practice of visiting among the Lodges is recommended.

Several eminent Brethren have crossed the river during the year, notably Past Grand Masters Brothers E. P. Johnson and S. S. Schramm. Mention is also made of the fact that a Brother of the Jurisdiction died at Lake Bennett, B. C., on his way to the Klondike. His remains were suitably embalmed and forwarded to Seattle by a number of Brethren who, in that wild and unorganized region, assembled to pay the last friendly offices to a departed Brother.

The Grand Master visited nearly every Lodge in the Jurisdiction (there are nine); is gratified to learn that the Grand Lodge of Peru has restored the Bible to its place on the altars of the Lodges, and recommends the Grand Lodge to renew the exchange of courtesies with that body.

The only dispensation issued—or at least recorded—is the following, which is somewhat unique in these days:

"I also, on the 9th of July, issued a dispensation to Uintah Lodge, No. 7, to hold an open-air meeting on the top of a high mountain overlooking Park City on the evening of the 13th day of the same month; the site chosen for this even, was on the top of a mountain almost due north from Park City, with a plateau running east and west. A finer situation could not have been found anywhere, and being over 8,000 feet above the level of the sea, the view was of the grandest description. Having chartered a special train over the Utah Central, with Jos. G. Bywater, Past Master of Mount Moriah, No. 2, as engineer, and accompanied by 181 brethren from our Utah Lodges, and 27 from sister Jurisdictions, we left Salt Lake City at 4.30 p. m. on the afternoon of the 13th of July, arriving in

Park City in due time, where we were met by the brethren of Uintah Lodge and escorted by them to the chosen place of meeting. Sentinels having been posted to guard against the approach of cowans and eaves-droppers, the Lodge was opened in due form, and the regular business was proceeded with, first in order being the receiving of the Grand Lodge officers, and the dedication of the altar, and the mountain top to Masonic uses; speeches bearing on the importance and solemnity of the occasion were made by Past Grand Masters Dalby, Scott, Gash and myself, our Grand Secretary, and the Worshipful Masters of Wasatch, Mt. Moriah, Argenta, Story, Weber and Tintic Lodges. It was after 11 o'clock when the Lodge was closed, and torches being procured, we made the descent of the mountain reaching our train without accident, and after having spent a most delightful time with our Park City brethren, and partaken of their bountiful hospitality, we started for home, arriving there in the 'wee sma' hours ayont the twal.'

The decisions rendered during the year were so unimportant as not to deserve mention. The question of "Negro Masonry" having arisen so late in the year, the Grand Master did not touch it, but passed it over to the Grand Lodge.

The venerable Grand Secretary, Brother Chris. Diehl, has passed his silver anniversary as Grand Secretary—this being his twenty-sixth annual report. It is an excellent report, and we trust that our Brother will be spared to write many more.

The Salt Lake City Board of Relief state that they have expended \$247.70 in relief during the year.

The following question was submitted to the Committee on Jurisprudence:

"Can this Lodge receive the petition of a man who has a stiff knee, being crippled to that extent, but who is otherwise well qualified?"

They say that the By-laws of Grand Lodge provide that a candidate must be able to "conform substantially to the forms and ceremonies of Masonry," and conclude that the physical defect of the candidate referred to is not contrary to the spirit of the law on the subject, and that the question should be answered in the affirmative.

We cannot exactly see how such a candidate can conform even "substantially" to the forms of Masonry.

They also recommend the resumption of friendly rela-

tions with the Grand Lodge of Peru, which was agreed to.

The same Committee took up the question of "Negro Masonry," and of course, decided against its regularity and legality. They submit the following resolutions, which we think in very much better taste than the strong language used by some committees:

Resolved first. That we regret exceedingly the action taken in this matter by the Grand Lodge of Washington.

Resolved second. That we dissent both from its premises and conclusions, and can find no warrant for the departure from long established customs which must result from such action.

Resolved third. That we fraternally implore our brethren of that State which bears the name of the foremost great Mason of the land, as they love the institution of Freemasonry, and desire to maintain that harmony which should ever prevail among us, to gather to their full strength at their next annual Communication, and rescind the action which is the cause of so much alarm and unrest among the Fraternity East, West, North and South.

The Committee on Correspondence, (and the Grand Lodge,) believe that when dealing with the recognition of Grand Orients it is well to hasten slowly. In consequence, the Grand Orient of Belgium will wait for recognition for another year.

Brother Diehl, who is the Committee above referred to, reviews the Proceedings of fifty-six American Grand Lodges in his usual happy manner. The Proceedings of British Columbia for 1898 are favorably commented on, and we offer Brother Diehl our sincere thanks for his complimentary notice of our Report.

Brother Diehl briefly refers to Negro Masonry in the following paragraph:

"The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington concerning 'Negro Masonry' has created an agitation in our country, the like of which is not to be found on the pages of Masonic history. Much has been said on the subject, and much more will be said on it within the next year or two, but even that cloud, as serious as it may now appear, will pass over, and the Masonic horizon will again be clear and bright. In the foregoing review we have copied the resolutions of such Grand Lodges as have taken action upon the matter during the year, to which we refer our readers. We have offered no criticism, because we did not consider it prudent to do so, before our Grand Lodge had passed and acted upon the subject. We may here state that individually we fully agree with the views expressed in the report of our Committee on Jurisprudence. The

historical facts as stated by the Committee cannot be gainsaid, not even by the learned Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Washington."

The volume of Proceedings is rendered the more interesting by the insertion of the portraits of M. W. Jas. D. Murdock, Grand Master; R. W. Edmund P. Johnson, Past Grand Master, and of the late R. W. Stephen S. Schramm, Past Grand Senior Warden.

The nine Lodges of the Jurisdiction have 807 members, a gain of 17 over last year.

M. W. JAS. D. MURDOCK,
Grand Master.

R. W. CHRISTOPHER DIEHL,
Grand Secretary.

VERMONT, 1898.

A Special Communication was held in the City of Burlington on the 20th of October, 1897, at which the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple was laid. The Grand Master, M. W. Daniel N. Nicholson, officiated on this occasion, being accompanied by a full staff of Grand Lodge officers. The Address of welcome by the Mayor of the City, His Honor H. S. Peck; the response by M. W. Brother Alfred A. Hall; and the Address by the Grand Master, are all gems which should be read, but which would be spoilt by clipping.

Other Special Communications were held October 27th, 1897, for the purpose of dedicating the Hall of Jackson Lodge at West Fairlee, and on October 28th, 1897, to constitute Sharon Lodge, at Sharon.

The One Hundred and Fifth Annual Communication was held in the new Masonic Temple in the City of Burlington, on the 15th of June, 1898. The Grand Master presided, and 97 Lodges were represented.

The Grand Master's Address is a lengthy, but very interesting document. He remembers with tender words the Brethren of sister Jurisdictions, and of his own, who

have left us during the year. He recommends several changes in the Constitution and Standing Regulations, and makes the statement that

"It is a settled principle of Masonic law, that when a Brother affiliates in a new Lodge, he carries with him all the official rights which he had previously possessed in the Lodge to which he formerly belonged."

We, too, thought that this was a "settled principle," but as will be seen in our review of Texas, it is not law in that Jurisdiction.

The following are the decisions rendered:

1st. It is not the prerogative of the W. M. of a Lodge to direct the Secretary to send a Brother a dimit. A dimit cannot be granted except by a majority vote of all the members present at a regular communication.

2nd. If an officer duly elected or appointed declines to serve before installation, a new election may be had to fill the vacancy under dispensation of the Grand Master for that purpose; in such case, if the Worshipful Master refuses to apply for a dispensation, the Lodge can, by a majority vote of all the members present at a regular meeting, direct the Secretary to do so under the seal of the Lodge.

3rd. In all cases of appointive officers, the Worshipful Master may fill vacancies at any time, if the By-laws of the Lodge do not conflict; he may also make any or all appointments subsequent to the annual meeting, if he chooses to do so.

4th. In case of the death or expulsion of an elective officer below the Senior Warden in rank, thereby creating a vacancy, an election to fill the vacancy may be held under dispensation of the Grand Master for that purpose.

5th. When the By-laws of a Lodge provide for annual dues, stipulating the time at which the dues shall be paid, a candidate receiving the degrees in the Lodge or a Brother affiliating with the Lodge any time after the annual dues are payable, is liable for dues for the unexpired portion of the year, pro rata, and should pay the same as required by the By-laws of the Lodge in advance or otherwise.

Considerable space is taken up with correspondence the Washington Memorial Observances, and the Grand re the Grand Orient of Belgium, which asks for recognition; Lodge of Peru. There is also a detailed statement of the progress of the new Temple, up to the date of its completion.

On the afternoon of the first day of the session, the

new Temple was dedicated with appropriate Masonic ceremonies. The Addresses on this occasion were numerous and extremely interesting.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence recommended that the recognition of the Grand Orient of Belgium be deferred for the present, and the Grand Lodge so ordered. They also express their strong disapproval of the course taken by the Grand Lodge of Peru, and trust that it may soon retrace its steps.

The various recommendations of the Grand Master did not meet with the approval of the Committee on Jurisprudence, except the third, which provides that a candidate for advancement must prove his proficiency in the preceding degree, "unless excused by the Worshipful Master." The decisions all commend themselves to the Committee, however.

The reports of the several District Deputy Grand Masters are printed as an appendix, and demonstrate that these officers performed their duties in a very thorough manner. With hardly an exception they found harmony and zeal in the various Lodges visited, and the Craft enjoying a season of prosperity.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is a review of the doings of fifty-two Grand Lodges, written in M. W. Marsh O. Perkins' most entertaining manner. He notices our Proceedings for 1897, and casts a sprig of acacia on the grave of M. W. Brother Marcus Wolfe. Vermont was not reviewed that year, Brother Perkins, because the Proceedings did not reach the Committee.

We copy the following from his review of Kentucky, as a warning to any who may need it.

"The usefulness of many a Lodge has been impaired, if not actually destroyed, by unseemly electioneering for office, and whenever it makes its appearance, it should be stamped out and killed, as one would kill a viper. It is not in accord with the principles and tenets of the Masonic Institution, and the fact ought to be duly impressed upon the mind of every initiate, that to merit alone should be accorded Masonic preferment. Wherever this is done, confusion in the Temple does not, and will not reign. Unless it is done, disorder, discord and all the attendant evils will surely prevail."

An admirable portrait on steel of M. W. Park Davis, Past Grand Master, forms a frontispiece to the volume, and is accompanied by an interesting biographical sketch of the distinguished Brother.

The number of active Lodges in the State is 102, the number of members being 9,886.

M. W. DANIEL N. NICHOLSON,
Grand Master.

R. W. WARREN G. REYNOLDS,
Grand Secretary.

VICTORIA, 1898.

The volume before us contains the record of the various quarterly Communications held during the year, and of the Grand Anniversary Festival Meeting, held for the installation of officers.

British Columbia's Representative, R. W. Brother F. G. Manchester, Past Grand Senior Warden, was present on each occasion.

At the quarterly held on the 16th of March, M. W. Brother, His Excellency Lord Brassey, was unanimously re-elected Grand Master, and W. Brother A. B. Templeman was elected Grand Treasurer, the other officers being, apparently, appointed.

The Board of Benevolence report having relieved 33 petitioners during the quarter, the amount expended in relief being £257.6.3. During the year they had relieved 157 applicants, and made special grants amounting in the whole to £1006.7.4.

At the Festival Communication the Grand Master and Grand Treasurer were installed, and the other officers invested. A protest was entered against the installation of the Grand Master during his absence from the Colony, but it was over-ruled, and the installation proceeded with.

For the quarter ending June 1st, 1898, the Board of

Benevolence expended £164.2.9. They recommended several new regulations having for their object the better management of the Fund.

Communications were received from several sister Grand Lodges stating that they had suspended relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru, and from the Grand Lodge of New York, and from the Grand Lodge of Peru stating that the Bible had been restored to its place. The Representative of the Grand Lodge of Peru, R. W. Brother R. O. Thompson, Past Deputy Grand Master, moved that consideration of the matter be postponed for twelve months, to see what really had been done, and this was agreed to.

The expenditures of the Board of Benevolence for the quarter ending August 31st, were £177.8.9.

The Board of General Purposes report at the same meeting (September 21st,) that one Lodge had been fined £1.1.0 for having initiated a candidate residing in the jurisdiction of another Lodge without having given the required notice. They were asked whether a Masonic funeral could be given to a deceased Mason who had not himself expressed a wish for it. Their answer was that if the request were made by the relatives of the deceased Brother, the Lodge might attend in Masonic clothing, if a dispensation were obtained.

The last quarterly for the year was held on the 21st of December, 1898.

M. W. Brother, His Excellency Lord Brassey, was again nominated as Grand Master.

The disbursements of the Board of Benevolence for the quarter were £256.14.0.

The Worshipful Master and the Secretary of one of the Lodges were reprimanded for having omitted to read a letter from the Grand Secretary referring to certain charges made against one of its members.

Notice was given that a special meeting of the Grand Lodge would be held on the day before the next quarterly, for the purpose of revising the Constitutions.

The question was asked if the proposed amendments must be taken as they stood, or whether amendments to them could be moved without previous notice having been given. The Pro Grand Master stated that the amendments would come before the Grand Lodge as a Report, and that it was within the power of members of Grand Lodge either to reject, to amend, or to substitute new matter.

There is no Report on Foreign Correspondence.

M. W. HIS EXCELLENCY LORD BRASSEY,
Grand Master.

V. W. JOHN BRAIM,
Grand Secretary.

WASHINGTON, 1898.

The Grand Lodge of Washington held its Forty-first Annual Communication in the City of Seattle, commencing on the 14th of June, 1898.

The Address of the Grand Master, M. W. Archibald W. Frater, whose strong, manly face greets us upon opening the volume, opens with a call to the Brethren to recognize their high privileges as Masons, and urges them to indulge in a little self examination. He suggests that the Brethren might with advantage ask themselves the following questions :

Have we done our duty generally to the distressed people of our land ?

Have we attended our Lodges with any degree of regularity ?

Have we attended the funeral services of our deceased Brethren in our different localities, when called upon to do so, or have we shirked this sacred duty ?

Have we done anything to relieve the distress of a Brother, or contributed, according to our ability, to the relief of his widow and orphan ?

Have we safeguarded the standing of the Fraternity by rejecting all unworthy applicants for the degrees ?

Have we acquiesced in the proceedings of our several Lodges, recognizing the right of the majority to rule ?

Death has been busy in the Jurisdiction, no less than three Past Grand Masters and the Grand Treasurer having been called home since the Grand Lodge last met. Their names are Alfred A. Plummer, Elwood Evans and Rudolph Guichard, all Past Grand Masters, and Benjamin Harned, Grand Treasurer, and we offer our Brethren of Washington our sincere sympathy.

The Grand Master refused all applications for dispensations to confer degrees out of time, or to receive petitions from applicants who had not the necessary qualification of residence. His very sensible remarks on this subject are as follow :

I have been cautious on the subject of granting dispensations. I hold firmly that no one should be admitted to membership without a full investigation as to his character and standing, and without the fullest opportunity for the members of the Lodge to know of the application, and have the right to ballot thereon. I believe it is all wrong to permit the conferring of degrees out of time, except in cases of the utmost urgency. Before advancement, the candidate should be proficient in the degrees conferred."

Several decisions are reported, some of which we copy:

4. The manager of a hotel in which there is a bar is eligible for the degrees when his duties do not require him to handle or purchase the liquors, and when his only connection with the same is to hire the help and have general supervision of the accounts and finances, paying the bartenders their wages the same as other employees.

5. A foreman and engineer in a brewery, having charge of the manufacture of intoxicating liquors and the compounding of malt extracts, is not eligible to the degrees.

6. Our law will not permit of the reception of a petition from a profane who is engaged in the saloon business. If a brother is engaged in the business and runs an orderly house, I know of no reason why he should not be received in any Lodge, &c.

9. "Is a colored man, who claims membership in the Jurisdiction of Nova Scotia, entitled to Masonic relief, and does the fact of his being colored deprive him of Masonic recognition?"

Ans. Our Grand Lodge recognises the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and is in fraternal communication therewith; consequently any member of any Lodge in Nova Scotia, no matter what his color or condition, is entitled to full recognition and consideration at the hands of the Fraternity of this State. I will further call your attention to the fact that the color line is nowhere drawn in this Jurisdiction; and, while I would not encourage the application of colored people in our Lodges, yet the Masonic Fraternity is a brotherhood so large in its scope that it ought to be willing to take into its membership all good men, wherever they may be found throughout the globe, without any reference whatever to their color.

The Committee on Jurisprudence approved of No. 9, and we do not see what else they could have done. If the Brother were really in need of relief, it is fortunate for him that he happened to drop into Washington rather than into one of the Jurisdictions where the Brethren, when it came to a question of recognizing him as a Brother, would say, "Not so, my friend; when I have to accept you or any other negro as a Brother or leave Masonry, I shall leave it."

The Grand Lodge of Washington has undertaken the prosecution of impostors, and the Grand Master, after some trouble, had one of this *genus* arrested and punished.

The Grand Master had some trouble with one Lodge where the Master refused to install the Master-elect, as he was believed to be incompetent, and refused to give the Master-elect an opportunity to demonstrate his proficiency. A special Deputy was appointed to visit the Lodge and investigate matters, and his report states that the Brother in question was a scholarly gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence, and quite able to open and close the Lodge on the several degrees. He was therefore installed by the special Deputy, and the Grand Master is now hopeful that peace and harmony may prevail in the Lodge.

The Grand Master states that harmonious relations with other Grand Lodges remain undisturbed, and in the Lodges of the Jurisdiction there is harmony.

The Grand Lodge listened with great interest to an oration by R. W. Thos. P. Fiske, on "The Future of Masonry," but as the manuscript did not reach the Grand Secretary in time, we are deprived of the pleasure of reading it.

The Committee appointed to deal with the matter of "Negro Masonry," presented their now celebrated report, which we propose, if time allows, to notice later on.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence embraces a review of fifty-five Grand Lodges by M. W. Brother Thos. M. Reed, assisted by M. W. Brother W. H. Upton.

Brother Reed devotes two pages of his valuable space to a review of our Proceedings for 1897. He approves of

our law which compels a Brother to pass an examination in the work of the Third Degree before becoming a member of the Lodge; compliments V. W. Brother Quinlan upon his interesting and able report, and admires V. W. Brother Logan's sermon on that occasion. Of the Report on Foreign Correspondence Brother Reed is pleased to speak in terms of praise, which are much appreciated.

While a member of the A. & A. S. Rite, Brother Reed has, we think, a true conception of the relative positions of that Rite and the Blue Lodge. Commenting on the action of the Grand Master of Colorado in joining with a "Grand High Priest," and a "Grand Commander" in issuing a warning against the use of "Keys," Brother Reed says:

"Masonry has suffered much already from a quasi Grand Orient system which has grown up in many parts of the land, through a semi-recognition of High Rite bodies as in some way connected with our Institution; and all experience with such bodies is, give them an inch and they will take an ell. In our opinion Lodges and Grand Lodges should ignore their existence, absolutely."

Our Brother does not approve of legislation against liquor sellers, maintaining, as we do, that

"The Grand Lodge, from a purely Masonic standpoint, has no right to impose conditions upon the admission by Lodges of candidates, or members, other than those quite generally accepted as among the Landmarks of Masonry."

Neither does he believe in attempting by stringent laws to compel non-affiliates to become members of Lodges. "Coercive membership, or affiliation," he says, "is intolerance, abhorrent to Masonic law and government, and is inconsistent with the spirit and groundwork of Freemasonry."

There are many excellent things in this Report of Brother Reed's which we would like to lay before our Brethren, but time and space alike forbid. We will therefore close this notice by transcribing his remarks on the subject of the Grand Lodge of Peru as found in his review of Louisiana. His views on this subject differ, we imagine, from those commonly accepted, and as the whole Bible was printed in 1535, and as we are informed that many copies in manuscript were circulated before that time, we see no difficulty in believing that the earliest Masonic Lodges were furnished with a copy of the Holy Scriptures. The extract is as follows:

"When we first heard of the action of the Grand Master of Peru we gave the matter careful consideration, expecting it to come before our own Grand Lodge. The conclusion we reached was, that he had departed from an ancient usage, but had violated no landmark. Our course of reasoning is simple, but, it seems to us, irrefutable. We presume it will be conceded that if Masonry existed before Bibles were found upon her altars, then the presence of the Bible cannot be a landmark. But we need go back no further than the first printing of the English Bible, and remember no more than the cost of manuscript copies of even a single gospel before printed copies were in circulation, to be absolutely certain that Masonry flourished in England for generations before any Lodge could possibly have owned a Bible. Hence, it is evident that pure ancient Masonry existed and can exist without the presence of the Bible. Q. E. D. Confirmatory evidence that the Bible was not in use in English Lodges in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries might be drawn, perhaps, from the earlier versions of the MS. Constitutions.

"But we wish to quote a part of what was said by Grand Masters Dam and Brice and the Louisiana Committee, respectively, for the reason that we think all three fell into error.

"Brother Dam said in effect :

" 'Catholicism holds that the Bible is a sacred book in which the revealed Word is deposited and, as such, cannot with impunity be examined and criticised ; that the Bible cannot be considered a foundation of scientific knowledge or history or the basis of morality.' "

"His unexpressed minor premise is, 'But the Masons of Peru are Catholics and ought to respect the teachings of their church.' And his conclusions is, *therefore*, 'the Bible should be excluded,' etc.

"Brother Brice begins by saying :

" 'Esteeming the Bible as the source of truth in morals and religion, and believing it is a book appertaining to no sect, but the gift of our common Father to all His children, etc. Therefore its presence is a landmark.' "

"The committee say, in part :

" 'But for us it is the revealed word of the Great Architect of the Universe, and all our dogmas and morals, and the very bone and sinew of our rituals are derived therefrom and founded thereon, and this to such an extent that if what we have established from our examination and criticism thereof be expugned from our rituals and our laws nothing practically will remain—Masonry would cease to exist.' "

"In regard to the latter quotation we have but two remarks to make. We are unable to believe that in those lands and those ages wherein our Bible was unknown, the Father left Himself without a witness. And we have not so poor an opinion of Masonry as to believe that its very existence is dependant upon a single one of the several Sacred Books in which humanity has preserved a record of divine truths.

"Grand Master Dam and Grand Master Brice fall into error by taking the one the extreme Roman and the other the extreme

Protestant view of the Bible ; and the errors of both could have been avoided by taking the Masonic view.

"Brother Dam is wrong in assuming that *because* the Church entertains certain views *therefore*, Freemasonry must entertain them. Brother Brice commits exactly the same error—substituting 'Protestantism,' or 'Protestant extremists,' for 'the Church ;' but he goes far beyond Brother Dam. For when he styles the Bible *the source* of truth in morals and religion,' we cannot but ask, was there no 'truth in morals and religion' before the Bible was compiled? Had the blessed Apostles no knowledge of the truth? And how about Father Abraham and Melchizedek?

"It is a queer situation. Brother Dam excluded the Bible because it was *too sacred* to be placed on our altar ; and our American Grand Masters excommunicated him for lack of reverence for that Book."

Chartered Lodges, 99; Master Masons, 4,663, a decrease from last year of 16.

M. W. WILLIAM HENRY UPTON,
Grand Master.

R. W. THOS. H. REED,
Grand Secretary.

WEST VIRGINIA, 1898.

The frontispiece of this volume is a portrait of M. W. Brother Joseph Hall, Grand Master, with which is a biographical sketch of the distinguished Brother, by the Grand Secretary, M. W. Brother Geo. W. Atkinson.

Several Special Communications were held during the year—one to pay the last honors to the late M. W. Brother Gustav Brown, Past Grand Master, and the others to lay the corner stones of various important public edifices.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Communication was held in the City of Wheeling, commencing on the 15th of November, 1898. It was presided over by M. W. Samuel N. Myers, whose businesslike Address takes up twenty-six pages of the Proceedings.

Masonry, he says, has been steadily progressing during the year, but he has found it somewhat difficult to judge accurately of its advance because of the dilatoriness of the

District Deputy Grand Masters in making their reports. Two eminent and highly beloved Brethren were called to the Lodge above—Past Grand Masters Odell S. Long and Gustav Brown—and their memories are perpetuated in touching words. One Lodge was constituted under charter, and four dispensations were issued for the formation of new Lodges. Several dispensations were granted to enable Lodges to confer degrees at other than regular meetings, which, we presume, is rendered necessary by some local law. Dispensations to re-ballot on rejected candidates were, very properly, refused.

The Grand Master reports ten decisions, all of which were endorsed by the Grand Lodge. They are as follow :

1. That a telegrapher, who had lost part of the second finger at the second joint, and the ring and little fingers at the approximal joints of the right hand, was not eligible to receive the degrees in this Jurisdiction.
2. A Mason objecting to the conferring of the degrees upon an elected, but uninitiated candidate, is not obliged to divulge the reasons therefor.
3. It is the Masonic duty of a member who objects to the advancement of an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft after ballot had been had, to prefer charges in the Lodge against the person so objected to.
4. A Lodge cannot grant the use of its Lodge Room for a place of entertainment. Lodges are dedicated to Freemasonry, and should be used solely for Masonic purposes.
5. A Lodge can accept any money that may be devised, donated or presented to it without violation of any Masonic law or usage.
6. A candidate for the degrees of Masonry is not eligible whose right index finger is off at the second joint, the second and right fingers near the hand, and the little finger curved inward, contracted and stiffened.
9. An objection against the initiation of an elected candidate is good for one year only, being of the same effect as a black ball, with this difference that an objection may be withdrawn while a black ball cannot.
10. A candidate minus the thumb and all his fingers of the left hand is ineligible to receive the degrees in this Jurisdiction.

A large part of the Grand Master's Address is taken up with correspondence and disciplinary matters of local interest. He thinks that before long the *Gran Dicta* will be accepted as the only true and legitimate exponent of Masonry in the Republic of Mexico. May be so, but we

fancy that the *Gran Dicta* has several matters to straighten out before recognition becomes general.

The Grand Master recommends the passage of a law prohibiting Lodges from receiving the petition of a profane who has not resided in the State for one year, and in the jurisdiction of the Lodge for six months previous to the date of his application. He also advises the enactment of legislation against the admission of liquor sellers. The former was, if we mistake not, favorably acted upon, while the Committee which dealt with the latter contented itself with offering a resolution advising the Lodges not to accept such material.

The Grand Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of \$6,606.55, being an increase of nearly \$1,000.00 over last year's balance. The Grand Secretary complains of the neglect of some of the Lodges to take any notice of matters laid before them, and discloses the peculiar state of affairs that many Lodges change their Secretaries and neglect to inform him of the fact.

The Grand Lecturer; some of the Deputy Grand Lecturers, and some District Deputy Grand Masters submit reports, showing an earnest desire to secure the welfare of the Craft under their care. From the reports submitted it would seem that the Lodges in the Jurisdiction are in a healthy condition and doing well.

A resolution was adopted calling for the appointment of a Committee to consider the proportion of Grand Lodge funds that might be devoted to the establishment of a Masonic Home for Orphans. The Committee subsequently recommend that \$2,000.00 be set aside as a nucleus of such a fund and that subscriptions and donations be solicited from the Subordinate Lodges and others.

A resolution was also introduced "looking to the doing away of Grand Lodge banquets." This elicited considerable discussion, and was finally referred to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, we presume because the Brethren felt it to be a grievance to be deprived of the banquet, and desired to appeal from any such decision. The Committee evidently felt the force of the appeal, for they recom-

mend that the banquet be held, but at an expense not to exceed \$150.00.

On the evening of the first day of the session a Lodge of Sorrow was held, in memory of the two distinguished Brethren already referred to. The proceedings are given in full and were very interesting and impressive.

M. W. Brother Atkinson is again to the fore with an excellent Report on Foreign Correspondence. The Wisconsin plan of Relief, he says, has fallen by the wayside, while the Maine proposition will, he thinks, ultimately triumph. We regret not to be able to fall in with his views on the subject of non-affiliation. We do not believe that because a Brother sees fit to withdraw from active connection with his Lodge, he is therefore to be "regarded as a Masonic nondescript," and unworthy of any "consideration at the hands of affiliated members." On the contrary; the Brother joined the Institution of his own freewill, and if he sees fit to leave it in the same way it is on one's loss but his own. He certainly loses certain privileges connected with Lodge membership, but his rights as a member of the great Fraternity of Freemasons are not contingent upon membership in the Lodge.

The "cipher business" has, he says, "wiggled itself to death"; he is still undecided as to Mexican Masonry, but has a leaning towards recognition. The most important question of the day is, in his opinion, the *status* of Negro Masonry, and of this he is convinced that it is thoroughly clandestine, and that nothing remains but to sever relations with the Grand Lodge of Washington.

Brother Atkinson believes that "Army Lodges," "Lodges on wheels," are a mistake, and we agree with him. We also cordially endorse his views on the subject of cipher rituals, which, as he says, are distinctly violations of the O. B. and are, besides, unnecessary.

Brother Atkinson reviews our Proceedings for 1898 and finds much to admire in the way our Grand Lodge officers—particularly the District Deputy Grand Masters—perform their duties. He is good enough to speak in a very complimentary manner of the Report on Foreign Corres-

pondence, and thinks last year's Report an improvement on its predecessor, which referred to an alleged poem by Brother Atkinson. We are sorry that Brother Atkinson took our well-meant criticism so much to heart, and promise not to say a word about his next effusion, "not if it were ever so."

If Brother Atkinson had had our Report where he could lay his hand on it, he would have observed that of the Jurisdictions mentioned, in five a Lodge cannot be opened in the absence of the Master and Wardens; in one the Lodge can only be opened by the Grand Master or his representative; one has no regulation on the subject, while in three a Past Master can open the Lodge. It is not fair of Brother Atkinson thus to adopt the *suppressio veri*. So far too, he has not attempted to give us the name of a single Grand Lodge, except Tennessee, where the power to open a Lodge in the absence of the Master and Wardens is delegated to "the members in order of seniority."

We beg to reciprocate the kindly feelings expressed by our esteemed Brother, and to assure him that we have written nothing with the view of hurting his—or any one else's—feelings. If we have used expressions which grate on his nerves, we beg to assure him that it is solely to be charged to our deficient education and inability to select the proper phrases to express our ideas. We are not "one who assumes to know it all," nor do we claim "the right to measure everything in his (our) own half bushel." Still, like the Irishman at Donnybrook Fair, when we see a head sticking out, we are apt to give it a crack.

The chartered Lodges of the Jurisdiction number 111; those under dispensation, 5; membership, 6,251, a gain of 263.

M. W. JOS. HALL,
Grand Master.

M. W. GEO. W. ATKINSON,
Grand Secretary.

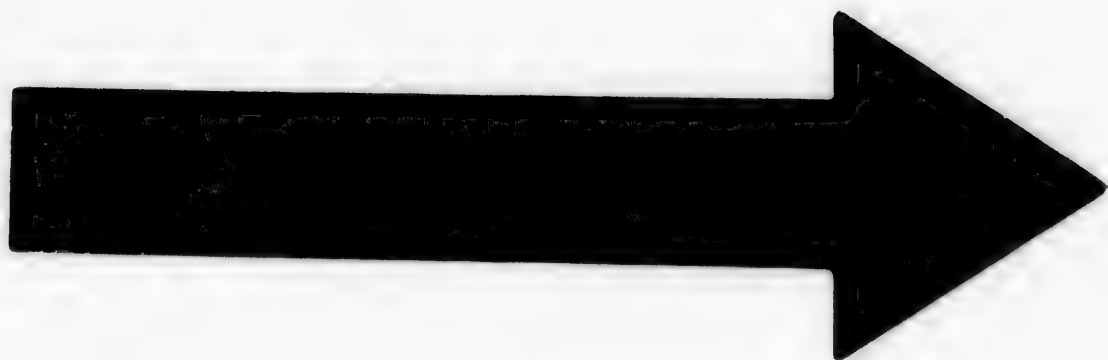
WISCONSIN, 1898.

The Fifty-fourth Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge was held in the City of Milwaukee, commencing on the 14th of June, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. Nathan C. Giffen, delivered what we consider to be one of the best Addresses of the year. There is so much good advice in his introduction that we cannot do better than copy from it *verbatim*.

"The Lodge that works up the most material is not necessarily the most prosperous. Quality rather than quantity should concern us most. We fear, however, that Lodges sometimes in their zeal for new members, lose sight of this principle. The growth of the Order for the last twenty-five years has been wonderful. During the twenty years between 1876 and 1896, the voting population of the State of Wisconsin increased about seventy-five per cent. During the same period the membership of our Lodges increased about fifty-six per cent.; and no doubt the increase in the other States of the Union was as great proportionately. To be sure, when compared with the actual increase of the population that is not so very great, and some would be inclined to say we are not in any great danger on account of the number of initiates when compared with the number of inhabitants; but it must be evident to every careful observer, especially to those who are old enough to remember the time when it tried men's souls to acknowledge that they were Masons, that the time has come when our danger is no longer from open enemies so much as from professed friends. Too many knocking for admission, instead of being influenced by a desire for knowledge and of being useful to others, are moved by pecuniary or other unworthy motives. We cannot too sacredly guard the outer door. Those who come should not only be unbiassed by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, but should be of good repute in the world. While this is no doubt true, that, let us be ever so careful and guarded, we cannot help occasionally having an unworthy person pass our threshold and hypocritically take our solemn vows, that fact should make us double our diligence and carefully scrutinize the character of every applicant for initiation into our mysteries. A Judas was numbered among the twelve Apostles, but he, when found himself discovered, went and hanged himself. We cannot expect to get rid of the betrayers of our cause in the same manner, but when we find a member living in constant violation of the teachings and precepts of the Order, one who is constantly guilty of unmasonic conduct, let him be promptly disciplined that our Lodges may be purged of impurity.

"Before leaving this subject it may not be uninteresting to look back for twenty years and see what has been done. Between 1878 and 1897 I find that Wisconsin Lodges initiated, passed and raised about 14,000 Masons. We lost by death during that time about 3,000. Our net increase for the twenty years was only about 6,000. Where are the other 5,000? Expelled, suspended or dimitted. We cannot of course prevent the havoc of the scythe of time. Death comes in an hour, when least expected; in a moment which we perhaps be-



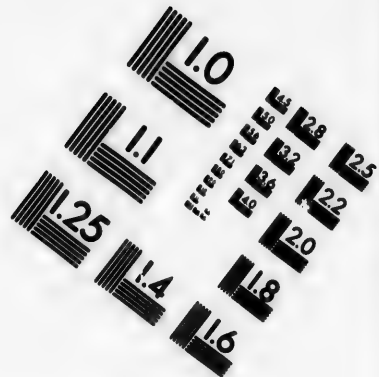
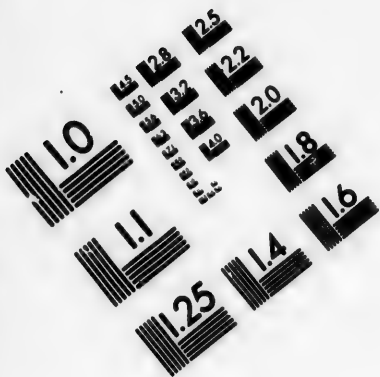


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lieve to be the meridian of our earthly existence. It matters not when, if we have so lived and worked that the trestle-board of our lives will pass inspection. But if we would only be a little more careful about the material we take we might perhaps avoid some of the losses in other directions, especially in expulsions and suspensions. But in addition to these two classes we find quite a large number who, having become members from pecuniary or other unworthy motives, after a short period, not realizing their expectations, dimit and remain unaffiliated. Such very often are ready to claim all the benefits incident to the relation which they sustain to the Order while bearing none of its burdens. I have no doubt that one of the causes that leads to the reception of such material is the growing practice among some over zealous Masons, of soliciting persons to offer themselves as candidates.

"The custom cannot be too strongly condemned. Any Mason, no matter how high his station, known to be guilty of such unmasonic conduct should be disciplined.

"If the guilty parties are officers of a Lodge they should be suspended. If private members and the Lodge refuses or neglects to deal with them, the Charter should be arrested. The resolutions adopted on the subject of soliciting at our last session were wise and timely and should be frequently read in open Lodge.

"Permit me, my Brethren, in this connection, to call your attention to another matter. I am fully persuaded that no city of less than 20,000 inhabitants is large enough for more than one Masonic Lodge. Where in such localities there are two Lodges an unhealthy rivalry is liable to spring up in which each Lodge, being ambitious to outdo the other in the amount of work done, falls into the error already alluded to of soliciting candidates, and permit some very poor material to be worked into the Masonic Temple—material that afterwards produces disturbance and is liable to bring the Order into disrepute. No doubt the rigid enforcement of the law forbidding soliciting will, to some extent, remedy the evil."

The decisions rendered number sixteen. All were, with trifling alterations, approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence. We give those that appear to be of interest:

1. Candidate found as follows: Left middle finger amputated at centre of middle phalanx; left third finger amputated at base of terminal phalanx. Is he disqualified?

Ans. Yes.

3. Is habitual drunkenness a Masonic crime?

Ans. It most certainly is.

4. Has a virtual Past Master any right to sit in a Lodge of actual Past Masters?

Ans. Yes. There must however be present at least three actual Past Masters.

5. In a city where two Lodges have concurrent jurisdiction, can an applicant, who has been rejected in one, apply to the other

after the lapse of a year, and can the Lodge receiving said application act upon it without the consent of the one in which the applicant was rejected, at the end of one year or after five years ?

Ans. No. When two Lodges have concurrent jurisdiction the one which has rejected an applicant retains jurisdiction over the rejected material until duly surrendered.

9. Ballot was spread upon applicant for degrees. One black ball appearing, the Master declared the candidate rejected. He then proceeded to install his successor. After the installation, during an intermission that followed, he became satisfied that the casting of the black ball was a mistake, but the new Master declined to interfere in the decision. Can the ballot be reconsidered ?

Ans. No. It is sometimes customary when there is but one black ball, for the Master before declaring the result, thinking possibly there may have been a mistake, to order a new ballot. In this case the Master declared the candidate rejected and that ended the matter.

12. Can a new charge for unmasonic conduct be made against a Brother who is under suspension for a limited time, before such sentence expires ?

Ans. Yes. It is doubtful, however, whether he can be tried under the new charge until his sentence of suspension has expired.

13. Does the objection to the initiation of a candidate hold good when made by a Brother who was afterwards suspended or expelled from the Lodge ?

Ans. Yes. The objector being in good standing at the time the objection is made, the fact that he has been suspended or expelled does not invalidate the objection.

Twenty-four dispensations were issued ; one for the formation of a new Lodge; eleven to confer degrees in less than the regular time, and the others for various purposes. A number of Special Communications were held for laying corner stones and dedicating Halls, at all of which the exercises were of a most interesting nature.

The Grand Lodge sustained a severe loss in the death of R. W. Brother F. L. von Suessmilch, Past Grand Treasurer, whose memory will live in the beautiful words of the Grand Master.

He issued an Edict declaring non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Peru; attended a Communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, and made several other official visits which were the source of much pleasure.

The Grand Lodge resolved to extend recognition to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. It also recognized the

valuable services rendered to the Craft during many years by M. W. Nathan C. Giffen and R. W. David H. Wright, by voting them a Past Grand Master's and a Past Deputy Grand Master's jewel respectively.

The rest of the business transacted was mainly of local interest.

In the list of Grand Representatives we notice that the name of Brother Jonathan Nutt is set down as the Representative of Wisconsin near British Columbia. Brother Nutt may represent Wisconsin, but he does not live in British Columbia, having died some ten years ago.

We are glad to meet M. W. Brother Aldro Jenks, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. He reviews in a forcible and interesting manner the doings of fifty-seven sister Grand Lodges. British Columbia for 1897 receives his kind attention, a sprig of acacia being dropped on the grave of M. W. Brother Marcus Wolfe.

Brother Jenks is a strong believer in the doctrine of physical perfection, which he considers one of the ancient landmarks; although a total abstainer, he has no sympathy with the legislation of Indiana which makes the use of intoxicating liquors a Masonic offence; and is convinced that although the right to "make Masons at sight" is an undoubted prerogative of the Grand Master, it ought to be exercised with the utmost caution.

We are glad to note that Brother Jenks will have charge of the Correspondence Department next year, and hope then to be able to give our Brethren more of his wisdom.

A fine portrait of R. W. F. L. von Suessmilch is published with the Proceedings.

The chartered Lodges number 237; membership, 17,226, a gain of 280.

M. W. JAS. G. MONAHAN,
Grand Master.

R. W. JOHN W. LAFLIN,
Grand Secretary.

WYOMING, 1898.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Communication was convened in the Town of Caspar, on the 14th of September, 1898.

The Grand Master, M. W. E. P. Rohrbaugh, chronicles the fact that "the scythe of time in its immutable flight" has brought around another session of the Grand Lodge. He wastes a little sympathy on the "struggling Cubans," and assigns the destruction of the Maine to "a bloody and treacherous Spanish hand." His historical researches have been of the slightest, apparently, for he is of the opinion that

"No page of history has ever recorded such progress of warfare, or victories won over enemies as has been witnessed during the present year."

Our Brother may be right, although we confess we had not heard of any war of that description. It is barely possible, however, that he refers to the triumphs of embalmed beef over the unfortunate American soldiery, which are certainly without parallel.

He records eight decisions which are all good common sense. They were approved by the Grand Lodge, and we copy those that appear of interest:

3. If the candidate can comply with all the other necessary qualifications, his not being a citizen of the country does not deprive him of receiving the degrees of Masonry.

6. The refusal of a Lodge to receive the petition of a profane to be made a Mason does not operate as a rejection. The applicant can have his petition presented at any future regular meeting, and any subsequent regular meeting until it is received.

The Grand Master made such visits as his professional duties would allow, and thinks that these visits from the Grand Master are productive of much good. Although they are supposed to have a standard work, hardly any two of the Lodges visited work alike. This leads him to suggest the need of greater care in the selection of the first three officers of the Lodge, and especially of the Master. He believes it would be to the advantage of the Craft if it were prohibited to install the Master before he could confer

the three degrees properly. He urges the Brethren to think of these things before they start a Brother on his way to the East by placing him in the South.

The Grand Master received through the Grand Secretary, an intimation from the Grand Master of Peru that he had ordered the Bible to be removed from their altars, and later on, a communication stating that the first Great Light had been restored. As Wyoming has never exchanged courtesies with Peru, he refers the whole matter to Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge passed a resolution discouraging the election of a Brother as Worshipful Master until he was able to confer the three degrees; issued a charter to Wheatland Lodge, under dispensation; authorized the Grand Secretary to continue the publication of photographs of their Past Grand Masters; settled the manner of wearing the apron in the Fellow Craft Degree, and accepted an invitation to a banquet.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is again, and for the thirteenth time, from the facile pen of R. W. Brother W. L. Kuykendall, Grand Secretary. British Columbia receives notice for both 1897 and 1898. Brother Kuykendall quotes the decision of M. W. Brother Charleson *re* the status of Brethren who have not passed the examination in the third degree, and says that it indicates a complicated state of affairs. So it does, Brother Kuykendall, and the Grand Lodge came to the same conclusion, although they took some time about it. He thinks our practice of requiring a visitor who cannot be vouched for to produce written evidence of good standing is most commendable, and hopes Wyoming will follow suit.

He gives M. W. Brother McLaren's decision as to residence, and says that in Wyoming the decision would have been just the reverse.

We take back what we said about Brother Kuykendall's leanings towards the *Gran Dieta*, but would still like to ask if, as he says, "No Diana Vaughan or any other woman was, or could be a Mason," what about the women made Masons in Mexico? Or were they not made Masons?

Brother Kuydendall is convinced that a Brother holding a dimit should, if he applies for membership at all, be required to apply to the Lodge within whose jurisdiction he resides, and he instances a case which certainly strengthens his position; he is not of those who claim extreme antiquity for the Institution; has no use for the so-called Past Master's Degree, and is down on the "making at sight" prerogative.

We are glad to be able to agree with Brother Kuykendall in most of his views, as his wide reading and deep knowledge make his opinions valuable.

In accordance with the excellent custom which obtains in this Jurisdiction, we are favored with a portrait of M. W. E. P. Rohrbaugh, Past Grand Master.

There are 16 chartered Lodges in the State with a membership of 985.

M. W. J. H. RUMSEY, JR.,
Grand Master.

R. W. WILLIAM L. KUYKENDALL,
Grand Secretary.

MISSISSIPPI, 1899.

The Eighty-first Annual Communication was held in the City of Vicksburg, commencing on the 8th of February, 1899.

The Grand Master, M. W. Brother John L. Stone, whose portrait greets us upon opening the volume, read a most interesting Address. He reminds the Brethren that

*"Pallida Mors aequo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas
Regumque tures."*

A shining light in Mississippi has gone out. M. W. Brother William G. Paxton, after a long and painful illness, received the summons, and passed through the portals into the Lodge above. His memory is on perpetual record in the hearts of his Brethren, and his lineaments are preserved in the excellent portrait which accompanies the

volume. The Brethren of that Jurisdiction also mourn the loss of R. W. Brother Jas. H. Gunning, Past Junior Grand Warden, who joined the great majority during the year.

The Grand Master visited the Grand Lodge of Illinois while in session, and received a hearty welcome; instead of worrying over rulings, he referred most of the questions submitted to him to the Committee on Jurisprudence, and so reduced his own labors to the work of rendering three decisions, which we reproduce:

"I decided that the Grand Master could not restore a charter which had been declared forfeited by the Grand Lodge.

"That every corner-stone laid with Masonic ceremonies must be placed in the north-east corner of the building.

"That a non-affiliate is not entitled to any of the benefits of Masonry unless he pays dues to some Lodge in the State, but that he may elect to what lodge he will pay dues. There is an apparent conflict between Sections 29 and 45 of the By-laws on this question, but it seems but just that, if a non-affiliated Mason has a right to elect what Lodge he will petition for membership, regardless of his place of residence, provided it is within the State, he should have the same right to select the Lodge to which to pay dues."

A number of dispensations were granted to confer degrees out of time; also three to retake the ballot on rejected candidates, and several for other purposes. Three dispensations were issued for new Lodges; several corner stones were laid; and as many visits were made as circumstances would permit of.

The Grand Master condemns the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington and characterizes the members of that Grand Lodge as "ignorant and timid," from which proposition we feel obliged to dissent. He brings the "Masonic Home" to the notice of Grand Lodge, and thinks it will be some time before they can afford one. We hope the Brethren of Mississippi will take his advice, and wait until they can afford such a luxury before they undertake it.

A Special Committee, (M. W. Brother A. H. Barkley,) dealt with the question of Negro Masonry, and submit a lengthy report, the conclusions of the Committee being that the Grand Lodge of Washington has violated one of the landmarks of Masonry and is consequently outside the

pale of recognition. The Committee submits a number of resolutions setting forth its position in the matter and declaring non-intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Washington. They go a step further than any committee that we have come across so far, in declaring

"That this Grand Lodge regards the State of Washington as vacant Masonic territory, and would look favorably upon the establishment of Lodges in said State by any Grand Lodge choosing to exercise jurisdiction over it."

The report of the Grand Secretary, R. W. Brother John L. Power, is something more than a mere collection of statistics. He recalls the fact that thirty years ago he was elected Grand Secretary, and that during that time seventy-five of the Brethren who have occupied positions in Grand Lodge have been called away. He is concerned about the non-affiliates, who, he thinks, number at least 4,000 in the State, and suggests that in every Lodge there should be a Committee appointed to look after those who, "through their own carelessness or illegal suspensions without Lodge action or the prescribed notice" lose their membership. How a Brother can be suspended "without Lodge action," is not very plain to us, and seems rather an extraordinary condition of affairs. We should say that *somebody* needed looking after—possibly not the Brother suspended.

At the last session a Committee was appointed to confer with other Fraternal Orders with reference to the establishment of a Widows' and Orphans' Home. After conference with certain of these, the Committee come to the conclusion that the prospects are not very encouraging, and the Grand Lodge discharged them, with thanks.

The Committee on the location of the Masonic Home received several offers of sites, but no decision was arrived at—the Committee being continued. The amount at present available for the Masonic Home is \$21,727.91.

Eight charters were issued to new Lodges.

The Committee on Law and Jurisprudence have had "more than the usual number of questions" submitted to them during the year. Their report is a document of some

16 pages, and they answer 38 queries. Their answers to the questions asked are very elaborate, and show much labor and research on the part of the Committee, of whom M. W. Brother Frederik Speed is Chairman.

R. W. Brother A. H. Barkley again provides an intellectual treat in the Report on Foreign Correspondence. Forty-eight Grand Lodges, many of them for two years, are passed in review. British Columbia for 1898 receives due notice at his hands, and we extend our personal thanks for his complimentary remarks.

Brother Barkley does not believe in conferring degrees out of time. Under District of Columbia, he says:

"We have had a little experience in this matter of granting dispensations to confer degrees out of time, and we have carefully observed the case of many who were hurried through regardless of time, and so far as our knowledge extends, the good of Masonry has not been advanced by the example of those who received the degrees under such circumstances, or have those who were so made had their knowledge of the great principles of Freemasonry increased by the plan adopted in bringing them to light. The old paths are best, and we could wish that the power to grant such dispensations had never been thought of in connection with the powers and rights of the Grand Master."

He is evidently not one of those who find the O. B. elastic enough to cover the cipher ritual. Under Michigan he says:

"LOST RITUAL."

"This would be strange language to us in the Sunny South. We carry our rituals in our heads, not in books and pamphlets; and hence there is no danger of loss. Brethren, you ought to learn the *Ritual* like Masons, and then you could always find it."

To which we say, Hear! Hear!

The Lodges in the Jurisdiction number 279, with 9,341 members, the net gain being 119.

M. W. WILLIAM STARLING,
Grand Master.

R. W. JOHN L. POWER,
Grand Secretary.

NEW JERSEY, 1899.

The Grand Lodge assembled in Emergent Communication in the City of Paterson, on the 18th of June, 1898, to lay the corner stone of the new United States Post Office Building.

On the 24th of June another Emergent Communication was held at Burlington, to dedicate the Masonic Home. The proceedings, which were participated in by many distinguished Brothers from neighboring Jurisdictions, were most interesting. Built into the wall is a stone brought from King Solomon's quarries; it was presented by R. W. Brother Jacob Ringle. At the close of the exercises the Grand Lodge and its guests proceeded to a large tent in the grounds and exemplified the fourth degree in a workmanlike manner.

The One Hundred and Twelfth Annual Communication was held in the City of Trenton on the 25th and 26th days of January, 1899, British Columbia being represented by R. W. Brother Henry S. Haines, Grand Instructor.

The Grand Master, M. W. Brother Josiah W. Ewan, read a most interesting Address. The Angel of Death has passed over the Jurisdiction without breaking the ranks of the Grand Lodge; foreign relations remain undisturbed, but there is a "cloud on the horizon," in the neighborhood of Washington which, the Grand Master thinks, may be the precursor of a storm. Numerous dispensations were granted, some few to allow of the conferring of degrees out of time. Several were refused, among them one to sanction the holding of "an impromptu Blue Lodge among the officers of the U. S. Army, as a 'novelty.'" Many requests were made for dispensations to hold the annual election of officers at times other than provided by law, the Masters appearing to believe in the injunction "Ask and ye shall receive." The Grand Master suggests a new reading of the above, i. e., "Ask and ye may receive a dispensation on payment of \$10 for same."

Unaffiliates trouble the Grand Master, who believes there are too many of them in the Jurisdiction. He sug-

gests the passage of a law prohibiting them from visiting a Lodge more than once.

The Masonic Home Committee, and the Superintendent of the Home present reports setting forth the work of the Home up to the first of the year. It is now an established success, and is a "home" for twenty-three old Masons and their wives, and widows of Masons.

The Grand Secretary's and Grand Treasurer's reports show the financial condition of Grand Lodge to be excellent. The balance on hand this year amounts to \$8,002.27 in the General Fund, while in the Charity Fund there was a balance of \$9,907.50, which had been paid over to the Home Committee.

The Committee on Correspondence presented a Special report on the subject of Negro Masonry. They, too, declare the action of Washington to have placed it without the pale of recognition, and recommend the cessation of fraternal intercourse with it. The same Committee consider it inexpedient at present to recognise the Grand Orient of Belgium or the Grand Lodge of Peru.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of our esteemed Brother Geo. B. Edwards. He passes in review the Proceedings of sixty-one Grand Lodges, including British Columbia for 1898. He presumes from the fact that M. W. Brother McLaren preached to the members of one of the Lodges and others "on a day that is marked in the almanac as being a Sunday," that he is a minister. So he is, Brother Edwards, so he is, and a good one too. Brother Edwards thinks the expression used by Brother McLaren, "No less than seventeen times during the past Masonic year has the sound of our Heavenly Master's gavel been heard," savors of irreverence, but we are sure that nothing was further from our M. W. Brother's mind.

He notes that in the election of officers the number of votes varies in the case of different Lodges from one to eleven, and presumes that the vote is based on membership. Well, not exactly, Brother Edwards. Each Lodge is entitled to three votes—the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens or their proxies each having one

The rest are the votes of Past Masters, each of whom has one vote, which is credited to the Lodge to which he belongs.

We did not attempt to sustain the position of this Grand Lodge in reference to the examination in the third degree, Brother Edwards; on the contrary, we have been trying for some years to have the law modified or revoked.

We thank Brother Edwards for his very kind reference to the work of this Committee, and reluctantly turn away from his interesting Report, but time flies, and we must pass on. We copy, for the benefit of our readers a poem by Rudyard Kipling, entitled "The Mother Lodge," which we find at the end of Brother Edwards' Report:

THE MOTHER LODGE.

(By Rudyard Kipling.)

There was Rundle, Station Master,
 An' Beazeley of the Rail,
 An' Achman, Commissariat,
 An' Donkin o' the Jail;
 An' Blake, Conductor Sergeant—
 —Our Master twice was he
 With 'im that kept the Europe shop,
 Old Framjee Eduljee.

Outside—"Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
 Inside—"Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm;
 We met upon the level an' we parted on the Square,
 An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother Lodge out there.

There was Bola Nath, accountant,
 An' Saul, the Aden Jew,
 An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman,
 Of the Sursey office, too.
 There was Babu Chicekerhitty,
 An' Amir Singh, the Sikh,
 An' Castro, of the fittin' sheds,
 A Roman Catholic.

We 'adn't good regalia,
 An' our Lodge was old an' bare;
 But we knew the Ancient Landmarks,

An' we kept 'em to a hair.
 An' lookin' on it backwards,
 It often strikes me thus,
 There ain't such things as 'eathen now,
 Except, per'aps, it's us.

For monthly after labor
 We'd all sit down an' smoke,
 (We dursn't give no banquets,
 Lest a Brother's caste were broke).
 An' man on man got *bukkin'*
 Religion an' the rest,
 An' every man comparin'
 Of the God 'e knowed the best.

So man on man got started,
 An' not a beggar stirred
 Till mornin' waked the parrots
 An' that dam, brain fever bird.
 We'd say 'twas very curious,
 An' we'd all go home to bed
 With Mohammed, God an' Shira
 Changin' pickets in our 'ead.

Full oft on Gov'ment service
 This wanderin' foot 'ath pressed,
 An' bore fraternal greetin's
 To the Lodges East an' West;
 Accordin' as commanded,
 From Ko'at to Singapore,
 But I wish that I might see them
 In my Mother Lodge once more.

I wish that I might see them,
 My Brethren white an' brown,
 With the burles smellin' pleasant
 An' the *ag-dan* passin' down,
 An' the old Khansannah snorin'
 On the bottle—Khana floor,
 Like a Brother in good standin'
 With my Mother Lodge once more.

Outside—"Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"

Inside—"Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm;

We met upon the level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother Lodge out there.

M. W. JOSIAH W. EWAN,

Grand Master.

R. W. THOS. H. R. REDWAY,

Grand Secretary.

SCOTLAND, 1899.

We have just received a small pamphlet giving an account of the proceedings at a quarterly Communication held on the 2nd of February, 1899.

M. W. The Right Hon. Lord Saltoun, Grand Master, presided.

Recognition was extended to the Grand Lodge of New Zealand; the recommendation of the Grand Committee, "That Grand Lodge in opening and closing use the old Scottish knocks in the several degrees," was negatived; and an amendment to Rule 164 of the Constitution was adopted, authorizing a Lodge "to pass or raise a member of another Lodge, in the name of that Lodge, at the request of the Master and Wardens thereof."

On the 7th of February the Grand Master made a Grand Visitation to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, and afterwards attended the celebration of the Centenary of Ayr St. Paul Lodge, No. 204.

VIRGINIA, 1898.

The One Hundred and Twenty-first Annual Communication was begun in the City of Richmond, on the 6th of December, 1898, M. W. Brother R. T. W. Duke, Jr., Grand Master, presiding. He records the deaths of four eminent Masons, all Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, viz., M. W. Brothers John P. Fitzgerald; John

R. Purdie; William B. Taliaferro, and William F. Drinkard. "Each in his own sphere of life did his duty well."

The decisions recorded number only six, and we copy those that appear of interest.

2. A brother duly qualified was elected Master during his absence. He declined to be installed. I held that under Ahlman Rezon (Dove's Text Book, second edition, page 99) the brother could not decline. He should submit to be installed and then, under Section 178, Methodical Digest, he could resign. I instructed the District Deputy Grand Master to urge this course upon the brother, and if he declined to have charges preferred against him for unmasonic conduct. This latter course, however, I am happy to say, was not necessary.

And here I beg leave to call the attention of the Craft to the importance of having the Ahlman Rezon printed in the next edition of our Text-Book.

Much confusion and honest error would be corrected if a digest of this great chart was in every Lodge room and in the hands of every Master and every District Deputy Grand Master. Innovation and so-called reform, the most dangerous enemy of our Institution, would therefore be, to a great extent checked, if we directed our course by this light in Masonry, now burning on but few altars.

4. I decided, but with much reluctance, that a non-affiliate had *no rights* in Masonry. He has *privileges* but no rights. I say "with reluctance," for it seems to me we treat non-affiliates with a harshness which should not exist. When a man enters our Institution he obtains certain inalienable rights. When for some reason, best known to himself, he deserts, he is still a Mason—a Mason in every sense of the word, except that he is not a member of a Lodge. The great aim and object, I respectfully submit, of all law on this subject should be to get all the good non-affiliates back into Lodges. We can never do it with a club. I have found from personal experience that a little kindly talk, an invitation to come to Lodge, a hearty welcome when he came, and an assurance that he was still a brother, though not a Lodge member, has brought back into the Lodge more than one man, whom all the terrors of the law could not have restored to the fold. This equally applies to the unfortunate Brother suspended for non-payment of dues. We punish him with a severity it seems to me his offence does not justify, making the failure to pay three dollars in one year as great an offence as drunkenness or misbehavior, and placing the unfortunate brother in the class of suspended Masons with whom to hold converse on Masonic subjects is one of the greatest offences.

Some Lodges have tried to get rid of this by having a By-law dropping the brother from the roll. Of course this, under our law, is vain. It seems to me the wisdom of this Grand Body ought to devise some means to soften the hardship of the present law. I know finances are the life-blood of every Institution, and that every member of a Lodge owes it and the Fraternity a duty financially; but whilst finance is the life-blood, charity is the very life, the soul, of the Institution, and we should deal with the non-paying brother in the highest spirit of charity. Before suspending him, before waiting his

answer or non-answer to the citation, go to him in a spirit of brotherly love, enquire into his circumstances, and find out why he cannot pay, remit if necessary. If he is found unworthy don't be afraid to prefer charges and have him suspended for cause rather than let him be suspended for failure to pay money. I wish we could place the Mason suspended merely for non-payment of dues in some different class from the Mason suspended for wrong doing.

5. I decided that a Lodge had no right to have in its Lodge room an exposed black-board on which was written the names of petitioners for initiation and for membership.

No. 2 exhibits a practice differing from that of most Jurisdictions. We should have said that the Master-elect could have refused to be installed, but could not have resigned afterwards. The decision harmonizes with Virginia law, but the Committee on Jurisprudence suggests the addition of a rider to the clause referring to the subject, thus, "and any officer elect may decline installation."

The 4th decision, the Committee say, is correct, and they agree with the Grand Master as to the harshness of the existing law. They are not prepared, however, to offer any amendment.

The Grand Master is a firm believer in the sacredness of the ballot. His views are so apposite to the question that we copy them.

"I had to strike out in more than one set of By-laws a section attempting to control the use of the black-ball and to compel the person casting the same to give reasons for it. So fundamental and ancient is the law on this subject, I was amazed that in a Masonic Lodge such attempt should be made. The union of one man to one woman in holy wedlock is no better settled as the law of morality than the sacredness of the ballot-box is settled as Masonic law. One black-ball is enough, when found in the box, to silence every mouth and repel any question, whether from the Grand Master or the humblest Entered Apprentice. There is nothing to do, when this black-ball is found in the box, unless the Master deems it necessary, to avoid mistake, to circulate the ballot again, but to note the fact, order the return of the petitioner's fee, and go on to other business."

The Grand Master manifests a just pride in the Masonic Home and desires to see its usefulness extended. He would like to see more funds raised for this noble work, and would like to see them devoted to providing the means of teaching the children some handicraft to enable them to make their way in the world.

The Masonic Temple, which is largely owned by the

Grand Lodge, is another matter which, he says, demands serious consideration.

He received, from a number of Brethren in the United States' service, a request for permission to establish a Military or Travelling Lodge at Jacksonville. He requested permission of the Grand Master of Florida to establish this Lodge, but he of Florida did not approve of the proposition, so, although he could not agree with the reasons advanced, the Grand Master declined to grant the dispensation.

The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington was also brought to his notice, and after considering the matter, he recommends the adoption of resolutions calling upon the Grand Lodge of Washington to re-consider its action.

He calls the attention of the Grand Lodge to the reckless way in which Lodge proceedings are published in the newspapers, and gives the practice his strong condemnation. He is a believer in the right of the Grand Master to make Masons at sight, but refused to exercise the prerogative.

Four dispensations were issued for new Lodges.

The Washington Centennial Memorial Celebration, which is to be conducted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, naturally comes in for a good deal of notice, and he trusts the Grand Lodge will provide the necessary sinews of war.

The Grand Master suggests the cultivation of the social side of Masonry, and thinks that the funds of the Lodge cannot be better employed than in providing for an occasional social supper where the Brethren can meet and learn to know each other. He regrets the inclination to engraft upon Masonry ideas borrowed from other societies, which, while excellent in their ways, are not Masonry.

The Special Committee on the Washington Memorial exercises submit a report outlining the features of the

celebration. We have no doubt that the occasion will be one of the most impressive ever witnessed, and from what we know of the hospitality of our Southern Brethren, those who are fortunate enough to participate will thank their lucky stars that they were there. In accordance with the suggestion of the Committee, it was unanimously resolved to extend a hearty invitation to H. R. H. The Prince of Wales, Grand Master of Masons in England, to be present on that occasion.

On the afternoon of the second day of the session, the Grand Lodge laid the corner stone of All Saints Church.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is this year by R. W. Brother J. W. Eggleston, who, in a most interesting paper reviews the Proceedings of the American Grand Lodges and of England. British Columbia is generously given a four page notice. M. W. Brother McLaren's Address and that of M. W. Brother D. Wilson are favorably mentioned, as is also the report of District Deputy Grand Master F. McB. Young.

Of our own Report, Brother Eggleston speaks very kindly. He agrees with us as to the impropriety of conferring degrees on clergymen without fee, and thinks that a Brother who cast a black ball is justified in declaring it if he wants to, which is where we beg to differ from Brother Eggleston.

We are glad to see too, that Brother Eggleston is with us on the cipher question.

268 chartered Lodges carry on the work in this Jurisdiction, their membership being 12,904, a gain during the year of 101.

M. W. R. T. W. DUKE, JR.,
Grand Master.

R. W. GEO. W. CARRINGTON,
Grand Secretary.

COST OF GRAND LODGES, PER CAPITA AND PER LODGE.

Taken from the Proceedings of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Michigan.

Grand Lodge.	No. Lodges.	No. Members.	Expenses.	Cost per Lodge.	Cost per Member.
Alabama.....	375	11,368	\$ 5,646 80	\$ 15 06	\$ 49
Arizona.....	13	618	415 69	31 97	67
Arkansas.....	438	12,678	9,690 50	21 90	76
British Columbia.....	24	1,339	1,578 95	65 79	1 17
Canada.....	361	23,996	18,338 29	50 80	77
California.....	267	18,808	25,182 31	94 31	1 34
Colorado.....	91	7,335	6,556 10	72 04	89
Connecticut.....	109	17,053	12,664 21	116 19	74
Delaware.....	21	2,176	1,326 30	63 16	61
District of Columbia..	25	5,144	4,888 04	195 52	95
Florida.....	152	4,317	6,770 64	44 54	1 57
Georgia.....	420	18,611	24,385 09	58 06	1 31
Idaho.....	29	1,240	8,188 22	282 35	6 60
Illinois.....	729	54,080	30,116 99	41 67	55
Indiana.....	489	29,954	18,042 57	36 90	60
Indian Territory.....	88	3,450	4,317 00	47 00	1 20
Iowa.....	482	27,907	25,998 72	53 96	93
Kansas.....	357	19,888	10,241 24	28 68	51
Kentucky.....	475	18,500	16,776 42	35 32	90
Louisiana.....	133	5,439	33,702 65	253 40	6 19
Maine.....	192	22,191	13,681 01	71 20	61
Manitoba.....	61	2,669	2,529 43	41 46	95
Maryland.....	101	7,474	25,994 48	257 37	3 48
Massachusetts.....	235	38,414	36,607 89	155 78	95
Michigan.....	387	39,576	13,067 41	33 76	33
Minnesota.....	208	15,691	10,281 60	49 42	65
Mississippi.....	270	9,010	5,104 86	18 90	56
Missouri.....	564	31,360	29,572 03	52 43	94
Montana.....	47	2,850	4,032 95	90 07	1 41
Nebraska.....	224	11,763	15,319 19	68 30	1 30
Nevada.....	20	837	1,234 40	61 72	1 47
New Hampshire.....	77	9,224	2,848 05	37 00	31
New Jersey.....	167	16,543	10,321 77	61 80	62
New Mexico.....	15	751	1,080 95	72 06	1 43
New York.....	743	95,480	77,139 74	103 96	80
North Carolina.....	298	9,756	6,198 15	20 80	63
North Dakota.....	48	2,702	2,517 70	52 45	93
Nova Scotia.....	63	3,453	6,011 43	95 42	1 74
Ohio.....	500	42,848	30,848 58	61 69	72
Oklahoma.....	34	1,456	1,343 54	36 57	92
Oregon.....	101	4,946	6,256 94	61 95	1 27
Pennsylvania.....	428	51,031	62,447 97	146 00	1 22
Quebec.....	55	3,590	2,261 81	41 12	63
Rhode Island.....	37	5,258	2,835 06	76 62	54
South Carolina.....	179	5,853	9,578 62	53 51	1 64
South Dakota.....	93	4,460	3,004 57	32 37	67
Tennessee.....	429	17,588	23,044 34	53 71	1 31
Texas.....	620	28,483	20,779 51	33 51	73

Cost of Grand Lodges, per Capita and per Lodge.—Continued.

Grand Lodge.	No. Lodges.	No. Members.	Expense.	Cost per Lodge.	Cost per Member.
Utah.....	9	790	\$ 1,865 25	\$207 25	2 36
Vermont.....	102	9,886	9,022 28	88 45	91
Virginia.....	260	12,803	12,444 78	47 86	97
Washington.....	100	4,633	4,773 62	47 73	1 03
West Virginia.....	110	5,983	3,990 02	36 27	67
Wisconsin.....	238	17,226	9,448 82	45 42	55
Wyoming.....	15	1,011	1,149 94	76 66	1 13

CONCLUSION.

Outside of one or two matters, the Craft this year pursues the even tenor of its way, and in spite of the machinations of its enemies and the well-meant but misguided efforts on some of its friends, continues to increase in usefulness every day. Mexican Masonry does not seem to have made any progress during the year; most of the Grand Lodges of this country still remaining coy.

There can be no doubt that the exercises in commemoration of the death of George Washington, which will be held in December of this year, will be one of the greatest Masonic celebrations of the times. We do not just see the *raison d'être* of the function, but as every Grand Lodge in the United States and a good many out of them have signified their intention to send representatives, an interesting time may be expected.

The "question of the day," this year is Negro Masonry. We have refrained from offering many comments on the affair as it has been so thoroughly discussed by other committees that little remains to be said. We give here the report of the Washington Committee, upon which the action of that Grand Lodge was based, and also that of M. W. Brother Robbins, of Illinois, who is, so far as we have observed, the only writer who offers any defence of their action. On the other side we give the report of the Committee of Massachusetts, which is one of the most moderate, and that of Mississippi, which goes to the other extreme.

WASHINGTON.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington:—

At our last Annual Communication a petition, in the form of a letter addressed to this M. W. Grand Lodge by Gideon S. Bailey and Con. A. Rideout, was referred to this Committee, with instructions to report in relation thereto, at this time.

In the letter, the writers claim to be Free and Accepted Masons of African descent, and members in good standing of Lodges in the United States existing by authority originally derived from the Grand Lodge of England. Their communication is respectful in tone and couched in familiar Masonic phraseology; it correctly states certain fundamental principles of Masonry which the writers deem pertinent to their prayer; and breathes throughout, the spirit of our Institution. Its burden is comprehended in its prayer—that this M. W. Grand Lodge “devise some way whereby we (the writers of the latter) as true, tried and trusty Masons, having been regularly initiated, passed and raised, can be brought into communication with, and enjoy the fraternal confidence of the members of the Craft in this State.”

Inasmuch as the writers also urge that, as Afro-Americans, their claim to consideration is not less than that of the Kanaka, the Arab, the Egyptian or other races whom we freely recognize as Brethren, there would be no impropriety in the Grand Lodge's expressing what we have no doubt is the emphatic opinion of all its members: That Masonry is universal, and that neither race nor color can legitimately be made a test of worthiness to share in its mysteries. But for the Grand Lodge to do this and stop there, would be to give these petitioners a stone where they ask for bread; for what they really seek is recognition of the right of the bodies in which they were initiated to make Masons. In other words, they raise the large question of the so-called “Negro Masonry” of the United States.

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS.

Your Committee deemed it its first duty to ascertain who the petitioners were, and whether they were entitled to

be called Masons, even from the standpoint of the Negro Lodges. We learned that both are reputable citizens of this State, residents of Seattle. Mr. Bailey was formerly a Justice of the Peace of King County, and Mr. Rideout is a practicing attorney. Mr. Bailey's Masonic standing—from the standpoint of the Negro bodies—is unexceptionable. He received the degrees in a Lodge chartered by the (colored) Grand Lodge of Illinois; the latter body was formed by Lodges chartered by the (colored) Grand Lodge of Ohio; and the latter by Lodges chartered by the (colored) Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, a body which was formed in 1815 by Lodges existing by authority derived from Prince Hall, of whom we shall speak further, presently.

Mr. Rideout appears to have been initiated in a Lodge chartered by the (colored) Grand Lodge of Florida. The latter owed its origin to the "Hiram" Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, which we shall mention later on.

Being satisfied that the petition comes from men who are acting in good faith, and is entitled to respectful consideration, your Committee found themselves confronted at the outset by the question whether a Grand Lodge is the body to which this application should have been made. Without answering this question in the negative, and, indeed, not ignoring the fact that Grand Lodges have not infrequently appeared to consider themselves authorized to dispose of questions like those presented by this petition, your Committee are inclined to doubt whether the question whether a particular man shall be recognized as a brother Mason does not fall to the Lodge rather than the Grand Lodge to decide, in the first instance—if not to the individual Mason rather than to the Lodge. If a stranger applies to visit one of our Lodges, he is examined by a Committee of two brethren; and upon their judgment as to his standing, he is admitted, if admitted at all. And it is no uncommon experience for an individual Mason to be called upon to decide for himself whether a stranger who hails him has the right to claim the name of brother. Without pressing this question further, your Committee would express a doubt whether a mere majority vote of the Grand Lodge upon what is largely a question of history and a matter of opinion, ought to bind each individual Mason of

the Grand Jurisdiction either, on the one hand, to spurn one who is in his judgment a true and lawful brother, or, on the other, to converse Masonically with one whom he honestly believes to be a clandestine Mason.

The question of the legitimacy of the Lodges existing among the colored men of the United States is no new one. It has been warmly and ably discussed from time to time; and was quite fully examined over twenty years ago, when a proposal in the (white) Grand Lodge of Ohio—recommended by the Grand Master and favorably reported by the Committee to which it had been referred—to recognize as a lawful body the negro Grand Lodge which has existed in that State since 1849, was defeated by a very slender majority. Hence your Committee have not approached the subject as a new one, or as one with which we were unfamiliar. At our first conference, soon after our appointment, we discovered that all three of us were practically of the same opinion upon the principle question involved, as a result of previous study of the subject. Nevertheless, during the year we have refreshed our impressions by reviewing again the literature of the subject, and by further reflection.

ORIGIN OF THE NEGRO LODGES

The origin of Masonry among the negroes of the United States was as follows:

On March 6th, 1775, an army Lodge, warranted by the Grand Lodge of England, and attached to one of the regiments stationed under General Gage, in Boston, Mass., initiated Prince Hall and fourteen other colored men of Boston into the mysteries of Freemasonry. From that beginning, with small additions from foreign countries, sprang the Masonry among the Negroes of America. These fifteen brethren were probably authorized by the Lodge which made them—according to the custom of the day—to assemble as a Lodge. At least they did so, but it does not appear that they did any "work" until after they were regularly warranted. They applied to the Grand Lodge of England for a warrant, March 2nd, 1784. It was issued to them, as "African Lodge, No. 459," with Prince Hall as Master, September 29th, 1784, but not received until

May 2nd, 1787. The Lodge was organized under the warrant four days later. It remained upon the English registry—occasionally contributing to the Grand Charity Fund—until, upon the amalgamation of the rival Grand Lodges of the "Moderns" and the "Ancients" into the present United G. L. of England, in 1813, it and the other English Lodges in the United States were erased.

Brother Prince Hall, a man of exceptionable ability, worked zealously in the cause of Masonry; and from 1792 until his death in 1807, exercised all the functions of a Provincial Grand Master. In 1797 he issued a license to thirteen black men who had been made Masons in England to "assemble and work" as a Lodge in Philadelphia. Another Lodge was organized, by his authority, in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1808 these three Lodges joined in forming the "African Grand Lodge" of Boston—now the "Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts"—and Masonry gradually spread over the land.

The second colored Grand Lodge, called the "First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," was organized in 1815; and the third was the "Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania." These three Grand Bodies fully recognized each other in 1847, by joining in forming a National Grand Lodge (now virtually extinct); and, as practically all the negro Lodges in the United States are descended from one or other of these, we need pursue the history no further.

After this plain statement of universally admitted facts concerning the origin of the negro Lodges, Brethren to whom the subject is a new one will no doubt be surprised to learn that many excuses for denying their regularity have been given.

In our opinion, the conclusions and sentiments that have influenced the action of the great majority of those American Masons who have decided against the Negro Masons after investigating their claims, are accurately expressed—though with unusual frankness—in the following extracts from a letter written by our late brother, General ALBERT PIKE, in 1875. Brother PIKE said :

"Prince Hall Lodge was as regular as any Lodge created by

competent authority, and had a perfect right (as other Lodges in Europe did) to establish other Lodges, and make itself a Mother Lodge. That's the way the Berlin Lodges, Three Globes and Royal York, became *Grand Lodges*.

* * * * *

"I am not inclined to meddle in the matter. I took my obligation to white men, not to negroes. When I have to accept negroes as *brothers* or leave Masonry, I shall leave it. Better let the thing drift. *Après nous le deluge.*"

OBJECTIONS TO THEIR LEGITIMACY.

We have denominated the objections which have been urged against the regularity of the Negro Lodges "excuses" rather than "reasons," because, while some of them are plausible at first sight, or to those but slightly acquainted with the history and principles of Masonry, we do not think there is a single one of them that would have been seriously urged by well-informed brethren but for the existence of the race antipathy which has for generations caused the white man and the black to remain at a seemingly perpetual distance in all social matters—that feeling which led Brother PIKE, as we have seen, to refuse to be governed by the dictates of his own judgment as to their legitimacy.

It would be impossible, within reasonable limits, to discuss all these objections. The literature of the subject covers many hundreds of pages. It might suffice to say that, in the opinion of your Committee, each objection has been fully met and completely answered, over and over again. Yet we deem it our duty to call the attention of the Grand Lodge to three of them which seem to be regarded as the most important by those who have opposed recognition, and seem to us to be the only ones which would be seriously urged in our day.

VALIDITY OF THEIR CHARTERS.

First—Admitting that Prince Hall Lodge, warranted by the Grand Lodge of England, was a regular Lodge, it is pointed out that it was only a Lodge, not a Grand Lodge; and it is claimed that, consequently, it or its Master could not authorize the formation of other Lodges. In answer to this we may say that it is by no means certain that PRINCE HALL was not *de jure* as well as *de facto* a Provincial Grand Master. Many circumstances indicate that

he was; and, in the opinion of many, a stronger showing has been made out for him than for HENRY PRICE of Massachusetts, through whom much of our own Masonry must be traced. But, without relying on that claim, we must remember that nineteenth century usages cannot always be safely applied as a test of the regularity of eighteenth century acts. As already intimated, instances are numerous where single Lodges developed into Mother Lodges; and cases are not wanting, in Europe and Asia, where individual Masons, on their own authority, set up Lodges which were afterwards universally accepted as legitimate. To give but a few illustrations out of many which might be collected:

In Scotland, Kilwinning Mother Lodge continued to warrant Lodges long after the Grand Lodge of Scotland was organized.

In 1747 the Grand Lodge of Scotland recognized Lodges formed in Turkey by one of her Past Grand Officers, on his own personal responsibility.

In his History of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, Brother John Dove says:

"We have also evidence from the records of Falmouth Lodge, in Stafford County, that in the absence of a warrant from any Grand Lodge, the competent number of Masons being met and agreed, acted under this immemorial usage, only asking the nearest Lodge in writing, and which document acted as their warrant, as will be seen by the records of Fredericksburg Lodge, No. 4, in granting this privilege to the Masons in Falmouth. We are also justified in inferring that the military travelling Lodges may have in many instances imparted the degrees of Masonry to persons of respectability residing at or near their place of encampment, and on leaving gave them a warrant to confer these degrees on others in lieu of a certificate of enrolment."

At the formation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, this Fredericksburg Lodge was not able to claim a chartered existence prior to July 21st, 1758; yet before that it had made GEORGE WASHINGTON a Mason in 1752, and had empowered five brethren to form Botetourt Lodge at Gloucester Court House. This Botetourt Lodge, which had no other warrant until 1773, joined in forming the Grand Lodge of Virginia, from which the Grand Lodge of Washington is descended.

In a letter dated in 1783, the Secretary of a Lodge at Halifax, Nova Scotia, advised a Brother against forming a Lodge under an obsolete Army warrant, and to wait for a new warrant, adding:

"In the meantime I am ordered to acquaint you that you may at any time have from the Lodges here a dispensation which will answer all the ends of a warrant."

In 1752, certain Brethren in Boston, supposed to have been Scottish or "Ancient" Masons, finding themselves ignored by the "Moderns," formed a Lodge "upon the authority of immemorial usage prior to 1721," and without any external authority whatsoever. They received a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1760, becoming the St. Andrews Lodge, but it is known that they made Masons in 1753 and 1758. This Lodge furnished to the Massachusetts Grand Lodge its first Provincial Grand Master, the ever-illustrious General JOSEPH WARREN who fell at Bunker Hill.

Other instances might be cited, but we think we have given enough examples to show that usages prevailing a century ago—by which, of course, the validity of PRINCE HALL'S acts must be tested—differed radically from those of to-day. It may be well to bear in mind, also, that every one of the Lodges in England which in 1752 formed the Grand Lodge of the so-called "Ancient Masons"—to which nearly every Grand Lodge in the United States *except* the Negro Grand Lodges can trace its descent, in whole or in part—was formed in defiance of the regulation of 1721 which declared the Grand Master's warrant necessary to make a Lodge regular.

In fine, we think a recent writer—Brother GEORGE W. SPETH, Editor of the *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum* states the incontrovertible historical fact when he says:

"That throughout the last century, and well into this, Lodges have been formed by British Masons without the previous consent or authority of the Grand Lodge or of the Grand Master neither have the founders of such Lodges ever been censured for their irregularity of conduct."

In brief, we do not think that a rule which is not immemorial but was slowly developed among the white Masons, can be successfully invoked, a century after the

event, to overthrow Lodges formed by PRINCE HALL among people of another race.

INVASION OF JURISDICTION.

The *second* objection which we shall notice is, that the existence of Negro Lodges is in contravention of "the American Doctrine of Exclusive Grand Lodge Jurisdiction." But what if it is? The Grand Lodge of Washington has repeatedly expressed its adherence to that doctrine—sometimes perhaps in stronger terms than it would now use, in view of the wider diffusion of knowledge of the details of Masonic History; but it has never asserted that the doctrine is a landmark. Its very name—"the American doctrine"—shows that it is not. We might dismiss this objection with the remark that the notion that two regular Grand Lodges may not lawfully exist in the same State is a modern one which originated in this country at a comparatively late date, and has never been accepted in the British Isles or on the Continent of Europe; and, in the opinion of your Committee, cannot justly be applied to test the regularity of bodies formed at a time when the doctrine was a novelty, and by a race who had not accepted it.

In England from 1725 to 1813, there were always two Grand Lodges, and at times there were three or four. In Scotland there were for years a Grand Lodge and a Mother Lodge. In early Irish history we find two Grand Lodges. In Prussia alone there are now and long have been three, dwelling together most amicably; and in all Germany eight or nine. In New York there have been three; in South Carolina two. There were two in Massachusetts prior to 1792;—not to cite innumerable other instances. The doctrine appears to have originated—though in a much milder form than it is now put—in certain resolutions passed by one of the rival Grand Lodges in Massachusetts in 1782; and one of its most ardent advocates—Past Grand Master Gardner, of Massachusetts—claimed that by that resolution "Massachusetts set the example of a revolution in Masonic government."

Being, then, not a landmark, but the result of a "revolution" from ancient usage, it seems evident to your Committee that this doctrine cannot be justly or logically

applied to test the regularity of the negro bodies. But the colored men suggest the further argument, that as the white Grand Lodges have always practically confined their operations to the white race, and the colored Grand Lodges to the black, the law has not been broken, and there has been no *real* "invasion of jurisdiction." It must be admitted that, as used by the fathers, the term "Jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge" meant jurisdiction over its own Lodges and their members—not jurisdiction over *land*.

"FREE" OR "FREEBORN."

The *third* and only other objection which your Committee deem worthy of special notice relates to one of the practices of the Negro Lodges: They use the word "free" where we use the word "freeborn," in testing the qualifications of a candidate.

There is no written law of this Jurisdiction requiring candidates to be "freeborn"; nor do we know of any case where one of our Lodges has tested a candidate as to his status at birth. A single clause in our ritual contains our only allusion to the subject.

Your Committee, both by their early training and by what appears, from the manuscript Constitutions, to have been the usage of the fathers for three centuries, are very strongly predisposed to the idea that only the freeborn should be made Masons. But it must be admitted that the earliest Masonic manuscript that has escaped the devouring tooth of time, the Halliwell or Regius poem, not only designates the qualification as "*free*," not "freeborn," but joins with its only rival, in point of age, in assigning for the rule a reason which applies to the former word only; namely, that if a slave should be made a Mason his master might come to the Lodge and demand his surrender, and dire consequence—even manslaughter—might ensue; for, as the Regius MS. aptly observes:

"Gef yn the logge he were y-take,
"Muche desese hyt mygth ther make,

* * * *

"For alle the masonus that ben there
"Wol stonde togedur hol y-fere."

But not relying alone upon claims to be drawn from these ancient documents, our colored brethren are able to point to at least one notable champion of their practice. For in 1838 the Grand Lodge of England struck the word "freeborn" from its list of qualifications of candidates, and substituted the word "free."

In view of this action on the part of a Jurisdiction which we regard with peculiar reverence and affection, he would be a hardy man who would denounce this practice of the Negro Masons as placing them beyond the pale of Masonry.

And, whatever may be the true rule, even without the example of the Grand Lodge of England, we think our colored friends might successfully rely upon the plea that where one not possessed of the proper qualifications is initiated, he is nevertheless a Mason. Where women or minors or maimed men have been initiated, this rule has not been universally acknowledged; but we think it the better one and the one supported by the weight of authority. But—and we take no pleasure in mentioning it—in the too common case of the initiation of men who are lacking in the internal—the moral and intellectual—qualities that fit a man to be made a Mason, the rule has been unquestioned.

Other objections to the legitimacy of the Negro Lodges have been urged; but in the opinion of your Committee they are all based upon erroneous ideas of fact or law, and have been refuted so often that the time of this Grand Lodge should not be consumed by a discussion of them in this report.

CONCLUSIONS AS TO THEIR LEGITIMACY.

What we have said has prepared the Grand Lodge for the statement that the opinion of this Committee is that persons initiated in so-called Negro Lodges which can trace their origin to PRINCE HALL, or Prince Hall Lodge, No. 459, are as fully entitled to the name of Masons and to brotherly recognition as any other Masons in the world.

This opinion is shared by a great many distinguished Masons who have studied the subject. It is evidently the

opinion of ROBERT FREKE GOULD, who says, in his monumental History of Freemasonry :

"I am inclined to think that the claim of the black Mason to be placed on a footing of equality with the white one is destined to pass through a somewhat similar ordeal in America to that which has been (in part) undergone by the famous Jewish question in Germany."

It was the opinion of the German historian FINDEL, who became the representative in Europe of the Negro Grand Lodges.

Brother ALBERT PIKE'S views we have already quoted.

Brother THEODORE S. PARVIN wrote, more than twenty years ago:

"My opinion is that the negroes can make as good a show for the legality of their Grand Lodges as the whites can. . . . I think we had much better acknowledge them than to blend them into our organizations."

Grand Master GRISWOLD, of Minnesota, uses these words:

"I am satisfied that the so-called irregularities attending the organization of the first colored Grand Lodge in this country were fewer in number and of less importance than those pertaining to some other American Grand Lodges—Grand Lodges now venerable with age, to whom we look with feelings of reverence."

These quotations, from men who have stood high as Masonic Jurists, might be multiplied indefinitely; but we think we have cited enough to show that our views are not singular or novel.

We may add that some, at least, of the Negro Grand Lodges are recognized by many Grand Bodies in Europe; and that it is known that their "work" is identical with ours in all essential particulars; that they include many of the best men among our colored fellow-citizens; and that their contributions to Masonic literature are creditable and, in some instances, notable.

THEIR RIGHT TO VISIT.

Under these circumstances, we think the prayer of the petitioners should be granted, if practicable. The

prayer is that the Grand Lodge "devise some way" whereby they may be "brought into communication" with their white brethren. We do not construe this prayer as asking that the harmony of our Lodges be disturbed by the admission of unwelcome members or visitors. If we did, we should not hesitate to say to the petitioners that the doctrine that "no man can be entered a Brother in any particular Lodge, or admitted to be a member thereof, without the unanimous consent of all the members of that Lodge then present," is so well rooted in this Jurisdiction, and, even when extended to the case of Masons desirous of visiting our Lodges, has been found so productive of that Harmony which is the strength and support of all institutions, more especially this of ours, that we are satisfied that no proposal to dispense with the requirement of unanimous consent before Masons made in Negro Lodges shall be received, either as members or visitors, would be tolerated in this Grand Lodge.

THE HARMONY OF THE CRAFT.

There is another question which, in our opinion, ought not to be overlooked in determining the matter under consideration; namely, would a recognition of the rights of these petitioners disturb the harmony of our Lodges, or that existing between us and other Grand Jurisdictions? Of course, none but prophets can do more than express an opinion on this point. Our opinion is that it would not. The experience of the last thirty-five years indicates that social intimacy is not desired by either race. The recognition of the equality, before the law, of white men and black men has, if anything, diminished rather than increased their social intimacy; and we do not anticipate that recognition of their Masonic equality would reverse the manifest tendency of the two races to exist apart in friendly separation. The requirement of unanimous consent will bar each race from the Lodges of the other wherever objection exists; and, of course, no discord will arise where the desire for union is mutual and unanimous.

Nor do we think that any friction with sister Grand Lodges is to be expected. A generation ago the situation was very different; but we think that if this Grand Lodge should refuse to longer ignore what seem to be plain facts

of history and clear principles of Masonic law, at the present day its course would be universally applauded outside of the United States, and its right would not be seriously questioned in this country—particularly when we bear in mind that no proposal to enter into relations with the Negro Grand Lodges is involved. This belief is confirmed by recent events. Within the last few years five American Grand Lodges have accorded recognition to the *Gran Dieta* of Mexico, a body organized by men whose Masonic pedigree is not to be compared with that of the negro Masons of the United States, and one which, at the time some of these recognitions were accorded, was tolerating practices which are almost universally held to be in conflict with Masonic Landmarks. Nevertheless, although the step thus taken by sister Grand Lodges has been viewed with sorrow and regret by an overwhelming majority of the Craft throughout the United States and throughout the world, yet in no single instance has any unfriendly legislation against any of the five Grand Lodges been even suggested. And should this Grand Lodge—in a nobler cause, and on behalf of brethren who have a greater claim upon us—elect to take a step which would be as beneficent as it would be just to thirty thousand Masons and eight millions of our countrymen, we do not doubt that our Masonic right to do so will be unhesitatingly conceded, even by those who differ most widely from us in opinion.

But even were this not so, we do not doubt the determination of this Grand Lodge to “judge with candor”; and at any cost, “our ancient Landmarks, and the ancient usages and customs of the Fraternity to preserve sacred and inviolable.”

Hence, in the opinion of your Committee, but one other subject remains to be considered: It is but reasonable to expect that in the near future our colored brethren will desire to have Lodges in this great and growing commonwealth of Washington. If so, is it for the best interest of the Fraternity that their Lodges should be under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge or not?

Everything considered, your Committee incline to believe that the time is not yet ripe for the union of our Lodges and theirs, under one Grand Lodge. But your

Committee are very clearly of opinion that if this Grand Lodge does not desire to grant charters to Masons made in the Negro Lodges, their right to procure charters elsewhere and set up a Grand Lodge of their own should be recognized; and that such a Grand Lodge, if we practically force our colored brethren to establish it, ought—so long as it limits its jurisdiction to men of the colored race—to be fraternally recognized by this Grand Lodge as a legitimate body, within that limit.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Having thus set forth our views upon the important subject submitted to us, your Committee now submit to this M. W. Grand Lodge four resolutions, and recommend that they be adopted, to-wit:

Resolved—That, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, Masonry is universal; and, without doubt, neither race nor color are among the tests proper to be applied to determine the fitness of a candidate for the degrees of Masonry.

Resolved—That in view of recognized laws of the Masonic Institution, and of facts of history apparently well authenticated and worthy of full credence, this Grand Lodge does not see its way clear to deny or question the rights of its constituent Lodges, or of the members thereof, to recognize as brother Masons, negroes who have been initiated in Lodges which can trace their origin to Prince Hall Lodge, No. 459, organized under the warrant of our R. W. Brother THOMAS HOWARD, EARL OF EFFINGHAM, Acting Grand Master, under the authority of H. R. H. HENRY FREDERICK, DUKE of CUMBERLAND, etc., Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of F. & A. Masons in England, bearing date September 29th, A. L. 5,784, or to our R. W. Brother PRINCE HALL, Master of said Lodge; and, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, for the purpose of tracing such origin, the African Grand Lodge, of Boston, organized in 1808—subsequently known as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the first African Grand Lodge of North America in and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, organized in 1815, and the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania may justly be regarded as legitimate Masonic Grand Lodges.

Resolved—That while this Grand Lodge recognizes no difference between Brethren based upon race or color, yet it is not unmindful of the fact that the white and colored races in the United States have in many ways shown a preference to remain in purely social matters, separate and apart. In view of this inclination of the two races—Masonry being pre-eminently a social Institution—this Grand Lodge deems it to the best interest of Masonry to declare that if regular Masons of African descent desire to establish, within the State of Washington, Lodges confined wholly or chiefly to brethren of their race, and shall establish such Lodges strictly in accordance with Masonic Law as heretofore interpreted by Masonic tribunals of their own race, and if such Lodge shall in due time see fit in like manner to erect a Grand Lodge for the better administration of their affairs, this Grand Lodge, having more regard for the good of Masonry than for any mere technicality, will not regard the establishment of such Lodges or Grand Lodge as an invasion of its jurisdiction, but as evincing a disposition to conform to its own ideas as to the best interests of the Craft under peculiar circumstances; and will ever extend to our colored brethren its sincere sympathy in every effort to promote the welfare of the Craft or inculcate the pure principles of our Art.

Resolved—That the Grand Secretary be instructed to acknowledge receipt of the communication from GIDEON S. BAILEY and CON. A. RIDEOUT, and forward to them a copy of the printed Proceedings of this annual communication of the Grand Lodge, as a response to said communication.

Fraternally submitted,

THOMAS M. REED,
WM. H. UPTON,
J. E. EDMISTON,

Committee.

ILLINOIS.

Negro Masonry.

After a slumber somewhat longer than RIP VAN WINKLE'S famous nap, the subject of Negro Masonry comes to the front through the action of the Grand Lodge

of Washington on a communication from some colored Masons, received and referred last year, as noted in our report. .

The Washington proceedings have not yet come to hand, the delay being chiefly due to the sad bereavement of Grand Master UPTON, who lost his wife about the middle of August, after an illness that kept him at her bedside for weeks.

Through the courtesy of M. W. Brother UPTON, whose thoughtfulness under such trying circumstances we highly appreciate, we have been favored with a copy of the report of the Special Committee, reprinted from the Grand Lodge proceedings, and both on account of the intrinsic importance of the subject, and the ability, erudition, and truly Masonic spirit which characterizes the report, we are glad to place it before our readers, together with the action of the Grand Lodge thereon:

(Here follows the report of the Washington Committee as given above.)

We had occasion in 1871 to discuss the legitimacy of African Lodge, in reviewing an address by M. W. WILLIAM SEWALL GARDNER, then Grand Master of Massachusetts, delivered at the quarterly communication of that Grand Lodge in March, 1870.

The address was, as we then said, apparently a fair and square effort to do that which a Committee of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts ran away from—to meet by argument drawn from history, the claims advanced in the petition of certain colored Masons, of the colored organization there, to recognition.

To do this he essayed to prove that in 1784, when African Lodge obtained its charter from the Grand Lodge of England, the American doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge jurisdiction had been fully established, it having been put forward in 1782 by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, an independent Grand Lodge formed in 1777 by the constituents of the Provincial Grand Lodge set up by GEN. JOSEPH WARREN by virtue of a deputation from the

Grand Lodge of Scotland, and which expired with the death of the Provincial Grand Master on Bunker Hill, June 17th, 1775. Brother GARDNER claimed that on that March day in 1777 the "Massachusetts Grand Lodge" by a revolution and assumption of the powers, duties, and responsibilities of a Grand Lodge, became a free, independent, sovereign Grand Lodge with a jurisdiction absolute, exclusive, and entire throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts," and said that "by this revolution and assumption, from that day to this, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, without interruption, had exercised all the plenary powers of a Grand Lodge."

How valueless this oracular declaration is as a historical basis for an argument against the legitimacy of African Lodge will be seen in spite of the misuse of "Massachusetts Grand Lodge," and "Grand Lodge of Massachusetts" as convertible terms, when it is recalled that in the declaration of principles, which was rather a justification of its right to exist as a free and independent body, performing the functions of a Grand Lodge, than an assertion of jurisdictional rights as against any other Grand Lodge than Scotland—to whom St. Andrew's Lodge, the Lodge of WARREN, the late Provincial Grand Master, was still paying dues—the "Massachusetts Grand Lodge" (Ancients) appealed to the precedents of the Mother Country to justify its existence as an independent body in a territory where another Grand Lodge (the St. John's Grand Lodge, derived from the "Moderns" through PRICE), already existed.

The "Massachusetts Grand Lodge" recognized the equal independence of the St. John's Grand Lodge, as is shown by the fact that it at no time assumed or claimed any authority over the constituents of that body, and took the initiative in the negotiations for a conference looking to a perfect union of the two bodies, which was finally accomplished in 1792, when the present Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was formed with JOHN CUTLER, Grand Master of the St. John's Grand Lodge, as its first Grand Master.

The charter of African Lodge was granted by the Grand Lodge of England, September 29th, 1784, but was not received in Boston until April 29th, 1787, which Brother Gardner says was "ten years after the 'Massachusetts Grand

Lodge' had asserted its freedom and independence; ten years after the American doctrine of Grand Lodge Jurisdiction had been established."

The first half of this declaration is manifestly true; the second half as clearly not true. African Lodge had been a regularly chartered body for eight years, and had been in possession of the parchment attesting that fact for five years when the first Grand Lodge came into existence, that was in a position to assert its jurisdiction over all the Lodges in Massachusetts, or that ever claimed the right to do so; the declaration of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge—not made on the 8th of March, 1777, as implied by Brother GARDNER, but on the 6th of December, 1782—when read by the light of contemporaneous events, being clearly intended to apply only to Lodges of that ilk—the "Ancients," and in fact only a diplomatic assertion that St. Andrew's Lodge was rightfully under its jurisdiction and ought to pay dues to it instead of paying them to the Grand Lodge of Scotland. That the Massachusetts Grand Lodge never fully attained even this limited jurisdiction is attested by the fact that St. Andrew's Lodge continued throughout the whole period of the existence of that Grand Lodge—and for eighteen years afterward—under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and paid dues to that body.

Thus the fabric of "the American doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge jurisdiction," as applicable to the then condition of Masonry in Massachusetts, erected upon the assumption that the "Massachusetts Grand Lodge" was the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, falls with its shadowy foundation to the ground, and with it vanishes the only possible ground—gauzy as it was—for the claim that the charter of African Lodge, granted by the same authority under which held St. John's Grand Lodge which united with the Massachusetts Grand Lodge to form the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and gave to the first sovereign Masonic body in that commonwealth its first Grand Master, was invalid.

Under all the canons governing the formation of Grand Lodges designed to claim exclusive jurisdiction within a given territory, and by every principle of Masonic equity

all Lodges upon the registry of the Grand Lodges whose Provincial offshoots unite in such formation are equally entitled to be invited to participate in such action, and if African Lodge was left out in the cold when the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was formed there is less ground for impugning its subsequent legitimacy than for questioning the validity of action attained with conspiracy to rob it and its members of their rights.

Another handicap has been attempted to be placed upon the claim of African Lodge to original legitimacy, the fact that it worked for several years before it received a charter. But this attempt fails because the two oldest Lodges then and now existing in Massachusetts, and everywhere recognized as legitimate, were handicapped in the same way. St. John's Lodge, organized in 1733, was probably an unauthorized and irregular body until legalized by the deputation to TOMLINSON in 1737. St. Andrew's Lodge was originated in 1752 by nine clandestinely made Masons. In 1756, when it received a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, it numbered twenty-one members, exclusive of one of the original nine, who left Boston in the interval. Its charter did not arrive until 1760, at which time the Lodge had been increased by eighteen additional members; so that in all thirty-one candidates were initiated before the Lodge received its charter, and thirteen before the charter was signed—all to be legalized in one batch. No one, we presume, doubts the authority of the Grand Lodge of Scotland to legalize this irregular work, nor can similar authority be denied to the Grand Lodge of England in the case of African Lodge. These facts sufficiently indicate the usage in the early days of the history of Masonry in Massachusetts, and show that African Lodge had a title to legitimacy as clear as that of its white competitors, whose status is never questioned.

When did it lose its title to legitimacy? We have seen that the other bodies holding under the Grand Lodge of England—St. John's Grand Lodge and the Lodges in affiliation therewith—did not lose their legitimacy in the eyes of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge in consequence of the issue of the manifesto of December 6th, 1782, for with its Lodges it united with them in forming the Grand Lodge

of Massachusetts ten years later. Did African Lodge, which in 1797, according to Grand Secretary HERVEY, was still paying dues to the Grand Lodge of England, lose its legitimacy in consequence of that union? St. Andrew's Lodge evidently did not lose its legitimacy, although until a period much later it was still paying dues to the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Did African Lodge lose its legitimacy when, after five years of isolation, ridicule, and denial of the sympathy and countenance its members felt themselves entitled to as being also lawful members of a universal brotherhood, it assumed the functions of a "mother lodge" in order to make for itself among the people of its own race the fellowship which the whites had denied, and its master, PRINCE HALL "granted a dispensation to certain persons in Philadelphia?" If it did so lose it, it lost it in the face of precedent set by the Grand Lodge of Scotland—the parent Grand Lodge of one of the bodies uniting to form the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts—in absorbing into its body as legitimate lodges warranted by Mother Kilwinning—a private lodge which assumed Grand Lodge functions—both before and after the Grand Lodge of Scotland had been formed; and that furnished by the Grand Lodge of England in recognizing and taking under its protection the Lodge Royal York of Friendship, the offspring of the Mother Lodge Three Globes, of Berlin, when the parent body forsook Masonry for the hodge-podge known as the system of Strict Observance. It may be added that neither Kilwinning Lodge nor the Lodge Three Globes had the excuse that they were persistently denied the fellowship which gives to Masonry its chief value, that impelled African Lodge to assume the functions of a mother lodge.

Cite as we may and admit as we do the complications which render escape so difficult from the bonds in which they have bound themselves, we, who have in the outset robbed lawful Masons of their just rights, cannot lift from our consciences the burden of responsibility for their subsequent missteps.

When we discussed this question twenty-seven years ago, we did so against the day when, without injury to Masonry, a dispassionate attempt might be made to find

a *modus vivendi* that would satisfy the general Masonic sense of justice and at the same time properly recognize the respect due to firmly seated views of regularity of procedure which the establishment of the Grand Lodge system sought to ensure, and to the new ideas of jurisdictional rights which have become fixed in this country since the period when Negro Masonry took its rise, but altogether independent of its presence.

We were conscious at the time we wrote, that we were too near to the time when the status of the great bulk of the negro race in this country had been a chief factor in a struggle involving the whole people and arousing their fiercest passions, for such an attempt then; and while we could not but respect the sense of justice and their devotion to the principles that must underlie an institution claiming to be universal, of Grand Master BATLIN and his coadjutors in Ohio in the movement which in the same decade came so near committing that Grand Lodge to the position now occupied by the Grand Lodge of Washington, we regretted their action as ill-judged because untimely.

With the flight of years the situation is greatly changed. The repeal of the "black laws" of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1871, after a contest of years, with the result of placing all races and colors on an equality before the law, has demonstrated the groundlessness of the fears of the opponents of repeal that their lodges would be beset with the importunities of black visitors and the petitions of colored applicants for the rights and privileges of Masonry, and the entire absence of either is but a repetition of the experience of other jurisdictions where no such inhibitory regulations ever obtained. In New Jersey a Lodge created under dispensation in 1871—if our memory serves us correctly—and chartered the same year, with the express understanding that it was to give colored men legitimate entrance to the fraternity, numbers according to the last return twenty-five members of all complexions. This crucial test shows that in this country—unlike the British West Indies, where the whites (usually if not universally including the highest Government officials) and blacks mingle in the same Lodges—the negroes prefer Lodges and a Masonic government of their own race. The lapse of the

ful period of the life time of a generation has substantially removed the only fundamental difficulty; and what a third of a century ago was a burning question, viz: Whether in substituting the word "free" for "freeborn" fifty years ago, the Grand Lodge of England had violated a Landmark, now excites only the languid interest which ever attaches to an abstraction that can never assume the concrete form.

Whatever doubt we may have had whether the time was now fully ripe for such a dispassionate effort as we have referred to, is dissipated—at least so far as one jurisdiction is concerned—by the quality of the work of the Washington Committee and the approval of that work by the Grand Lodge of Washington. The adoption of the report by a nearly unanimous vote shows how completely the demonstrated indisposition of the two races thus far to mingle in the same Lodges, and the full realization by the individual of his power through the black ball and the acknowledged right to exclude an unwelcome visitor by objection on the other, had robbed the question of all its real and imaginary terrors.

While we doubt if the action of the Grand Lodge of Washington goes far enough to meet the ultimate demands of the conscience of an institution resting upon a recognition of the great doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, we still remain of the opinion that the wronged race should be content to let complete justice wait upon the welfare of the institution itself, and should realize that the ultimate salvation of the cargo rests upon the present salvation of the ship.

The earnest, judicial, and cautious spirit manifested by the Grand Lodge of Washington leaves no doubt that it has entered upon its tentative course in full accord with this view. In nothing is its prudence and sagacity more apparent than in the second resolution adopted by it, wherein it limits its recognition of the legitimacy of the colored Grand Lodges named, to the extent of permitting its constituent Lodges and their members to recognize as Brother Masons within its own territory, negroes who trace their Masonic descent through them. By this masterly stroke of a simply historical recognition, the Grand Lodge of Washington steers entirely clear of any cause of um-

brage to the Grand Lodges in fraternal relations with it, within whose jurisdictions these bodies exist, its action on emphasizing rather than denying its previous recognition of the full authority of such Grand Lodges to fix the status of all Masonic bodies found within their borders.

This is a matter of sincere congratulation, as it insures that the courageous and generous Masons of Washington will be enabled to test the practicability and adequacy of their plan for the solution of a grave problem, undistracted by perplexing complications with any of their sister jurisdictions, but with the hearty God-speed of all thinking Masons, albeit the good wishes of some may not be wholly unmingled with solicitude.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts,

Quarterly Communication,

December 14th, 1898.

The Committee to which was referred the recent action of the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington, upon the subject of Negro "Masonry" in the United States, begs at the outset to express its pain and regret that a question long since decided in Massachusetts, where it arose, should be re-opened in another jurisdiction in a manner so unexpected, not to say unprecedented. But it desires to refrain from any comment upon an apparent forgetfulness in inter-state comity, and to base its report upon the principles of Masonic law and usage long recognized in this nation.

It may be stated at once that the matter does not involve what is known as the "Race Issue." Whatever may have been the sentiment or action of any of the States in regard to the negro, before the passage of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments—whatever their feeling now as to his civil and social position and rights—all this has nothing to do with the question presented; nor does this question touch the right of a black man, free born and of lawful age, to offer himself as a candidate for Masonry and to solicit its privileges. It is simply the case of two men asserting a Masonic pedigree through certain channels from

a person who, some hundred years ago, in Massachusetts, claimed authority as a Provincial Grand Master to constitute Lodges in other States. The assumed authority was absolutely without foundation. Massachusetts herself has, of course, always repudiated it. But these two men have now asked and have been allowed Masonic recognition in Washington.

These are the facts. Last year two reputable persons of negro blood petitioned the Grand Lodge of Washington to devise some way by which they, having been, as they asserted, duly made Masons, could "be brought into communication with and enjoy the fraternal confidence of the members of the craft" in that State. It appeared that one received the degrees in a Lodge chartered by the (colored) Grand Lodge of Illinois; that the latter body was formed by Lodges chartered by the (colored) Grand Lodge of Ohio; and the latter by Lodges chartered by the (colored) Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, a body which was formed in 1815 by Lodges existing by authority derived from Prince Hall, the person whose preposterous claim to act as Provincial Grand Master in Massachusetts has been so often and thoroughly ventilated in the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge. The other appears to have been initiated in a Lodge chartered by the (colored) Grand Lodge of Florida. The latter owed its origin to the "Hiram" Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, another of the spurious offspring of Prince Hall.

This petition was, in the annual meeting of 1897, referred to a Committee, which had a year for its consideration. They say: "At our first conference, soon after our appointment, we discovered that all three of us were practically of the same opinion upon the principal question involved, as a result of previous study of the subject. Nevertheless, during the year we have refreshed our impressions by reviewing again the literature of the subject and by further reflection." Their previous study, twelve-month's consideration, fresh review of literature and further reflection have resulted in a report which is, to say the least and to speak in all Masonic courtesy, astonishing. This report, presented at the annual meeting of the Washington Grand Lodge held last June, concluded by a recommendation of the following resolutions:

(Here follow the resolutions submitted by the Washington Committee).

These resolutions were accepted and adopted by the Grand Lodge by a vote almost unanimous.

To the first resolution, that race and color are not of themselves grounds of refusing Masonic privileges, we offer no objection.

To the second, that so-called Lodges and Grand Lodges tracing their origin to Prince Hall may justly be regarded as legitimate Masonic Lodges and Grand Lodges, we distinctly, as always heretofore, refuse our assent. The story of Prince Hall has been so often told in our records that it needs but the briefest restatement. In 1784 fifteen negroes who, as is supposed on evidence not quite clear, had been made Masons in an English Army Lodge, applied to the Grand Lodge of England for a warrant. They received this, and organized under it in 1787. Prince Hall was their Master. By and by with a certain assurance, of which his race has never been entirely devoid, he began to act as if he were a full-blown English Provincial Grand Master, although the United States had for many years been independent of the Mother Country, and Massachusetts had long had her own Grand Lodge. He chartered Lodges in neighboring States, which at the time had their own Grand Lodges. From these negro Lodges Grand Lodges sprang up which, in their turn, organized Lodges in States other than their own; and so the tide flowed on.

The whole course of "Negro Masonry" in the United States is affected by taints which cannot be effaced. Even if we were to admit, as the learned Brother Findel seems disposed, that the charter of 1787 to African Lodge was valid for the reason that the Grand Lodge of England was still ignorant of any declaration of independence on the part of the American Provincial Lodges, and that the "right of district" had never been heard of, a supposition which seems to imply an unaccountable lack of acquaintance with recent history on the part of the Grand Lodge of England, still the flaw remains. Prince Hall, whatever he may have been in his own Lodge, was never a Grand Master. Even if he had been a Grand Master, he could never have had the

right to invade a neighboring State. And finally, the so-called negro Grand Lodges of the several States have had, in their turn, no right to invade neighboring States, for, if any principle of Masonry is recognized in America in this century, the "right of district" is one.

With the logic of the third resolution your Committee is unable to cope. It states first "that the white and colored races in the United States have in many ways shown a preference to remain in purely social matters separate and apart"; next, that Freemasonry is "pre-eminently a social Institution"; the conclusion being "that if regular Masons of African descent desire to establish within the State of Washington Lodges confined wholly or chiefly to brethren of their race," and later to erect a Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Washington will not consider all this as an invasion of its jurisdiction and will ever extend to "our colored brethren" its sincere sympathy, etc. How this will promote the efficiency of Masonry as a social Institution we are unable to see. What we do see is that the language of the resolution, coupled with the fact that it is ordered to be sent to the petitioners, implies their recognition as "regular Masons," "our colored brethren," and to this for reasons already given we object. And finally we object to the recognition of any organization as Masonic which is manifestly intended, in the language of the resolution, "to remain in purely social matters separate and apart."

We offer the following resolutions:

Resolved—That this Grand Lodge, while recognizing the right of the freeborn negro to solicit the privileges of Masonry, as equal to that of the freeborn white man, hereby renews its refusal of Masonic recognition to persons, Lodges or Grand Lodges, deriving their Masonic lineage from a certain Prince Hall, who unwarrantably assumed the functions of a Provincial Grand Master over this and neighboring States in which Grand Lodges already existed.

Resolved—That we protest against the recent recognition by the Grand Lodge of Washington of such spurious Masons and Masonic bodies.

Resolved—That we also protest against the resolution of the Grand Lodge of Washington sanctioning the possible

establishment of a Grand Lodge of co-ordinate jurisdiction in that State; based upon principles which we believe would be fatal to the fraternal and social advantages of Masonry.

Resolved—That we fraternally demand of the Grand Lodge of Washington a speedy reconsideration of its entire action upon the subject of "Negro Masonry" in the United States.

Respectfull submitted,

S. LOTHROP THORNDIKE,
CHARLES C. DAME,
SERENO D. NICKERSON,
Committee.

MISSISSIPPI.

Special Report on the Recognition of Negro Masonry by
the Grand Lodge of Washington.

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Mississippi.

Your Reporter, after a careful examination of the subject of Negro Masonry, as found in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Washington, would submit the following report:

The facts in the case show that a great wrong has been done—one of the bulwarks of Masonry has been pushed aside and a landmark removed, so far as it was in the power of the Grand Body to accomplish the purpose.

It was not an enemy that did it—then we could have borne it; but it was an equal, a guide, an acquaintance with whom we had taken sweet counsel in days gone by. This thing was not done in haste, but was the result of much patient deliberation by those solons who had the matter in charge. Every word was duly weighed and each sentence and paragraph fully analyzed, that no one might bring the charge of inconsiderate action.

When the Brethren who framed the articles of recognition—which were almost unanimously adopted by the Grand Body—had their first meeting, they made a discovery which is thus stated: "At our first conference, soon after

our appointment, we discovered that all three of us were practically of the same opinion upon the principle involved, as a result of previous study of the subject."

With this much by way of introduction, we proceed to lay before you the facts in the case, and draw our conclusions.

From the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Washington, dated June 8th, 1897, it appears that two "individuals" of color, claiming to be Masons and tracing their descent from Prince Hall Lodge, asked by letter the Grand Lodge to "devise some way by which they, as true, tried and trusty Masons, could be brought into communication with and enjoy the fraternal confidence of the members of the State."

These men claimed to have been regularly initiated, passed and raised and in good standing in their respective Lodges. Their letters were received by the Grand Lodge, and, after consideration, were referred to a Committee of three, to report at the next Annual Communication.

There is nothing said as to an examination had to find out whether these men were Masons or not, or what they knew about Masonry. They must have taken them on trust and upon their own testimony.

At the Annual Communication held by this Grand Lodge, June 15th, 1898, the Committee made its report, which was adopted, thus recognizing Negro Masonry without limitation.

If the Grand Lodge of Washington may recognize Negro Lodges in that jurisdiction it may recognize them in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction, and we are left powerless to prevent such encroachments upon our jurisdictional rights.

That we may present this action upon its own merits, we herewith submit the resolutions adopted:

(Here follow the resolutions as adopted by the Grand Lodge of Washington.)

Now, as to this Prince Hall Lodge, it is clear that it never was chartered by any Grand Lodge having the right to do so, and therefore the Lodges holding under it, and those persons who received the degrees in them, were clandestinely made Masons and the Lodges clandestine.

Grand Master Charles Levi Woodbury, in his able report to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in 1876, said:

"The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts never authorized any Lodge, or recognized any person, claiming Masonic rights from this source."

And here follows Grand Master Woodbury's recapitulation of all matters relating to Prince Hall, and all who claimed authority from him:

"We recapitulate these facts, because they point to inevitable conclusions as to Prince Hall and his associates—

"1. No evidence that they were made Masons in any Masonic Lodge.

"2. If made, they were irregularly made.

"3. They never had any American authority for constituting a Lodge.

"4. Their charter from England was granted at a time when all American Masonic authority agrees that the Grand Lodge of England had no power to make Lodges in the United States, after the acknowledgement of our independence, November 30th, 1782, and the treaty of peace, made November 3rd, 1783.

"5. The Grand Lodge of England dropped African Lodge from their list in 1813. Said Lodge does not appear to have worked since Prince Hall's death, in 1807, except this, that in 1827 parties calling themselves African Lodge, No. 459, repudiated the Grand Lodge of England.

"6. The Grand Lodge of England did not delegate to African Lodge any power to constitute other Lodges, or to work elsewhere than in Boston.

"7. No Masonic authority exists for any of the organizations since 1807, whether pseudo Lodges or Grand Lodges; and no evidence of the Masonry of any of their members has come to our knowledge.

"8. Neither English nor any other Masonic authority exists, nor has at any time existed, for these colored Lodges located out of Boston to make Masons or to practice Freemasonry. Each of them began its existence in defiance of the Masonic community of the State where located, and continues unrecognized by the regular Masons of the State."

This testimony rendered by this able Masonic jurist, who had studied the subject from its very inception down to

the time the report was made and adopted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, ought of itself to be sufficient to remove all doubt, if any existed, from every unprejudiced mind.

We might multiply other proof from other able Masonic sources, since we have an abundance at our command, but this we deem wholly unnecessary.

The Master of the African Lodge in Boston, in 1845, said that "they were wholly independent of white Lodges, asked no favors of them, and would have nothing to do with them, nor would they admit a white Mason if he should present himself as a visitor."

Every time the subject was brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the reports by wise and discreet Brethren, who considered the matter, showed them to have been governed by a spirit of true conservatism, and demonstrated beyond all controversy that the several organizations seeking recognition were irregular, without Masonic authority, and therefore clandestine.

The facts presented by Grand Master Woodbury have never been disproved, nor his arguments refuted, and until this is done we can afford to stay within this impregnable fortress.

This Committee of three (one of whom the author of the report is now Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington) have passed by Brother Woodbury's testimony with studied silence.

It is a recognized doctrine in this country, and one which we have been taught to accept without questioning, that every Grand Lodge in sovereign with its territorial limit. This is one of the Landmarks of Masonry, and it is our bounden duty to guard well this corner-stone of Masonic independence, as the inherent right of each sovereign Grand Body, in its own jurisdiction. If this right may at any time be violated at will, by those who would graft on to Masonry that which has no higher claim to consideration than its illegitimacy, and we tamely submit to the assault made upon us with the view of depriving us of the inheri-

tance which has come down to us from the fathers of the institution of Freemasonry, we will not only have forfeited all right to self-respect—but placed ourselves outside of the pale of recognition by all good and true Masons.

The Grand Lodge of Vermont decided almost time out of mind, that no Grand Lodge of any State can regularly recognize a subordinate Lodge existing in another State, or its members, until such subordinate is recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State in which it exists. The action of the Grand Lodge of Washington is a clear violation of this principle of territorial jurisdiction, and it can lead to nothing else but a disruption of the tender ties which have for years existed between us and those whom we love to call brethren.

It is not for us to dictate to the Grand Lodge of Washington its course of procedure, but when the sovereign right of Grand Lodge Jurisdiction has been invaded without provocation, it is our inalienable right, as well as our solemn duty, to sever the tie which has bound us to the one who would seek to deprive us of our highest Masonic right.

From this view of the case the calls of duty are imperative and demand in unmistakable language—from *all such be ye separate*.

The following resolutions were, by agreement, appended by P. G. M. Frederick Speed, and the same, with special report by Bro. Barkley, adopted as the action of Grand Lodge on the subject:

WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Masons in the State of Washington, at its Annual Communication in 1898, adopted a resolution declaring that it deemed it to the best interest of Masonry that, if regular Masons desire to establish within the State of Washington Lodges which shall not hold their charters from said Grand Lodge, and shall in due time see fit in like manner to erect a Grand Lodge for the better administration of their affairs, that it would not regard the establishment of such Lodges and Grand Lodge as an invasion of its jurisdiction, and will extend to them its sincere sympathy, whereby there would be created Lodges and a Grand Lodge which would

exist in disregard of the heretofore received doctrine of American Grand Lodge jurisdiction, as set forth by this Grand Lodge at its Annual Grand Communication in the year 1876, and at other times, in which it was asserted that the true doctrine of American Grand Lodge Jurisdiction is that but one lawful Grand Lodge can exist in the same State or Territory of the United States, and that it would view the creation or recognition of a second Grand Lodge in any State or Territory of the United States as unlawful and void, and in itself would operate as a severance of Masonic intercourse with any Grand Lodge for violating this fundamental principle of Masonic law; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Washington, at its said Annual Grand Communication, did adopt a resolution in which it "recognized as Brother Masons" a large number of persons who were initiated in Lodges which exist by virtue of charters from pretended Grand Lodges, which have been pronounced to be clandestine by the rightful Grand Lodges of the jurisdictions where they exist, the effect of which is to recognize as just and lawful Masons individuals who are residents of territory not included in the State of Washington, and of Lodges which do not exist by virtue of warrants or charters emanating from the Grand Lodge which exercises rightful jurisdictions in those States, and which persons and Lodges have been pronounced to be clandestine by said Grand Lodges; and

WHEREAS, This Grand Lodge has always maintained that every Grand Lodge is sovereign within its own limits, and has an inalienable right to determine the status and legality of every Mason and Masonic Body existing, or claiming to exist, or exercising any Masonic right or authority, within the limits of its jurisdiction, and its decision is binding upon every Mason and Masonic Body, wheresoever situated; and

WHEREAS, This Grand Lodge views with apprehension and regret the improvident action of the Grand Lodge of Washington in attempting to overthrow two of the fundamental principles which form the basis of the compact existing between all the American Grand Lodges, and without whose presumed assent to them it would not have

been recognized as a lawful Grand Lodge, as being destructive of the peace and harmony of the Craft and calculated to sow the seeds of interminable discord, without affecting the end it contemplated, of compelling the other American Grand Lodges to recognize as lawful Masons and Lodges those whom they had declared clandestine and unlawful, there being at the time neither such pretended Masons nor Lodges existing in the State of Washington, and its legislation being intended only to affect the status of individuals pretending to be Masons and Lodges pretending to be Masonic, in other Grand Jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, This Grand Lodge, in the assertion and maintenance of the principles of Masonic law, which the Grand Lodge of Washington has outraged, feels compelled to throw off all Masonic intercourse with any and every Masonic Lodge or Grand Lodge which shall disregard them; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge, deeply regretting the necessity and expediency of such action, will hereafter hold no Masonic intercourse with the Grand Lodge heretofore existing as a lawful Grand Lodge in the State of Washington, or with any Lodge or Mason of its obedience, and prohibits any Masonic intercourse by any Lodge or Mason of this jurisdiction with any Lodge existing in or Mason hailing from the State of Washington.

Resolved further, That the commission of Right Worshipful Bro. Benjamin L. Sharpstine, as the Grand Representative of this Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Washington, be and the same is hereby recalled and vacated.

Resolved further, That this Grand Lodge regards the State of Washington as vacant Masonic territory, and would look favorably upon the establishment of Lodges in said State by any Grand Lodge choosing to exercise jurisdiction over it.

The Report and Resolutions were unanimously adopted, February 9th, 1899.

* * * * *

For ourselves, we think it is a matter for the Grand Lodge of Washington alone. We do not see the expediency

of their action, as in these latitudes at all events, there are no difficulties in the way of a negro, or a man of any other color, gaining admission to Masonic Lodges if he can comply with the necessary requirements. There is absolutely no need in Washington for two Grand Lodges, and we think their action extremely illadvised. If, as their petition stated, these persons were, "true, tried and trusty Masons, having been regularly initiated, passed and raised" they should have had no trouble in being "brought into communication with" the "members of the Craft in this State." They should have, like any other visiting Brother, applied for a committee of examination from one of the Lodges, when, if they could prove their proficiency and no objections were raised, their "Communication with the members of the Craft in" the State would naturally follow. Their unwillingness to adopt this course appears to us to be a confession of the weakness of their position.

At the same time we think that the Grand Lodge of Washington has a perfect right to recognize another Grand Lodge if they want to. They have violated no Landmark that we are aware of. The doctrine of State sovereignty is a purely American doctrine, and is not one of the fundamental principles of the Institution. It may be advisable, but that is all. Neither do we see that any harm is being done to other Grand Lodges. There is no necessity for any other Grand Lodge to recognize any negro Grand Lodge because Washington has done so. There is no obligation on the part of British Columbia to recognize Mexican Masonry because Texas does so, nor is there any talk of withdrawing recognition from those Grand Lodges which have recognized Mexican Masonry because of their action in that respect.

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi goes just a step further than any of the rest in declaring that it regards the State of Washington as unoccupied territory in which any Grand Lodge may charter Lodges with impunity. Not to mention the position in which this action places those Grand Lodges which have not suspended fraternal relations with Washington, it will be interesting to watch what will happen should some Grand Lodge—Mississippi for instance—charter Lodges in that State. There is no doubt that most, at any

rate, of the Grand Lodges which have declared non-intercourse with Washington will be very ready to resume fraternal intercourse with that Grand Lodge when the cause of offence is removed; then what will be the *status* of the Lodge or Lodges chartered by other Grand Lodges? And in what position will the Grand Lodge which charters them find itself after having chartered Lodges in a State recognized by other Grand Lodges as already occupied?

The right of every Grand Lodge to manage its own affairs in its own way is universally conceded, and it seems to us to be the height of inconsistency to start with the premises that "Every Grand Lodge is sovereign within its own limits, and has an inalienable right to determine the status and legality of every Mason and Masonic body" existing in its jurisdiction, and then deny the Grand Lodge of Washington the right to do this very thing because it does not happen to decide in accordance with the views of its critics.

Nor do we believe that "its decision is binding upon every Mason and Masonic Body wheresoever situated," as claimed by the Jurisprudence Committee of Mississippi. As said before, we are under no obligation to recognize the *Gran Dieta* because some others have done so, nor do we feel the necessity of recognizing "negro Masons claiming their Masonic descent from Prince Hall Lodge" because Washington deems them worthy of recognition.

With these remarks we bring our Report to a close. The time spent in writing it has been one of much pleasure and profit, and we have much enjoyed the communion with the brightest spirits of other Jurisdictions.

We thank our Brethren of the guild, individually and collectively, for the pleasant things they have said of our reports, and beg to assure them that if any expressions used might be considered as other than fraternal, we are sorry for it, and offer our sincere regrets.

W. A. D. Woelfsch

Chairman, Committee on F. C.

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Addresses of Grand Officers.



R. EDEN WALKER, - - - Grand Master,
New Westminster, B.C.



V.W. J. QUINLAN, - - - Grand Secretary,
Nelson, B.C.



R.W. W. A. DeWOLF SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Correspondence,
New Westminster, B.C.



NOTICE.

*The Twenty-ninth Annual Communication will be held
in the Masonic Temple, in the City of Vancouver, com-
mencing on Thursday, 21st day of June, 1900.*

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